

Gorbachev gets tough with dissidents

Kremlin threat of direct rule in Baltic states

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

President Gorbachev declared yesterday that he would impose direct rule from the Kremlin in areas where ethnic tensions are boiling over. The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, immediately accused him of trying to amass more power than Stalin.

Mr Gorbachev told the Soviet parliament there was serious concern about the Baltic, Armenia, Georgia and Moldavia. "Where there is a serious threat to the state and to the people's well-being, I will have to introduce a state of emergency or presidential rule."

"In such a situation, the president will have to take full responsibility on himself," he told the Congress of People's Deputies, where he is seeking agreement in principle on a new union treaty.

That objective appeared ever more elusive yesterday when Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president whose ascent would be a cornerstone of any new political structure, accused Mr Gorbachev of trying to reimpose unlimited authoritarian rule under the guise

of constitutional change. "The expected scope of presidential powers is unparalleled in Soviet history — neither Stalin nor Brezhnev possessed such a quantity of legally documented power," he said. "The time of commands from the Kremlin is past. Republics are no longer fearful of threatening shouts and no order, even of the toughest kind, will work if it means sacrificing a republic's interests."

Mr Yeltsin also denounced attempts to use the army and the KGB to intervene in local affairs. "The Soviet Union has already lost at least six republics as a result of such policies," he said, referring to those boycotting the congress. But later, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister, told reporters: "You can't keep watching people die, it is necessary to ensure order."

He insisted, however, that the army would not act of its own accord without instructions from political leaders. Mr Gorbachev made his declaration a few hours after 53 conservatives had appealed for a crackdown on opposition to the Soviet state. The open letter, signed by the head of the Russian orthodox church, the armed forces chief of staff, two ministers, scientists and writers, said: "We propose that urgent measures be taken against separatism, subversive anti-state activity, instigation and inter-ethnic strife. If constitutional forms of action against separatists, criminal elements and paramilitary forces that are continuing to spill the blood of the people prove ineffective, we suggest instituting a state of emergency and presidential rule in zones of major conflict."

During his 40-minute address, Mr Gorbachev denounced violations of the human rights of the Slav minority in the Baltic states, where tension between the military garrison and nationalist authorities is reaching unprecedented heights. "It is no good when a considerable part of the population, which for decades has been living in these republics and which has made an indisputable contribution to the development of their economy and culture, is deprived of its citizenship. This is in violation of any constitution and any laws, including international human rights records."

The governments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, which

replaced the communist rulers after elections earlier this year, want to limit citizenship rights for people who have moved there since 1940, when the republics were incorporated into the Soviet Union. They argue that they have to protect the future of their native peoples.

General Pyotr Chaus, the military commander of the Baltic region who is based in the Latvian capital of Riga, where there have been nine small bomb explosions recently, said that "leaders of extremist organisations are pushing us to extreme measures". He would do "everything possible" to thwart local government attempts to deny servicemen facilities.

The three Baltic prime ministers yesterday formally protested against the Soviet military presence and appealed to Moscow to recognise their declarations of independence. The Latvian parliament blamed the Riga bombs on "political forces aimed to discredit the idea of Latvian independence".

Meanwhile in the congress, the Soviet prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov gave a dire account of the Soviet economy. Perestroika had failed, he said in what was effectively a farewell speech. Established structures had been wrecked, but "nothing effective has so far been created in exchange," leaving the economy with no plan or a market.

"Western creditors refuse to extend credits to us on commercial terms," he said, adding that this reflected "not so much the rise in debt as in our governmental and political instability".

Leading article, page 11



Dmitri Yazov: 'You can't keep watching people die'

Arts Council told to revise funding policy

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

TIM Renton, the arts minister, has told the Arts Council to rethink its strategy for the regional delegation of funding. The list of 92 of the council's 173 clients due for delegation has been torn up and the council has been told to draw up a new one by April. Mr Renton told MPs in a statement yesterday — just three weeks after he took over the arts portfolio.

He said he was concerned that a lower proportion of the arts budget should be spent on administration in the new structure so that more money would go to artists. "There is more work to be done on the relationship between London (the Arts Council) and the

regions," he said later. "I want the clients to have confidence in the boards which are funding them rather than be in a 'shot in the dark' situation."

The delegation process is to be rephased to give an extra six months for consultation. The time scale is to be as before, with final completion by April 1993, but the new regional arts boards are to be set up in October next year instead of April and be in control a year later. A new arts spokesman, described the flat as a pied-à-terre and said the couple would still be based in Dulwich.

He denied they planned to sell their £500,000 house on the mock-Georgian estate by the South Circular Road. Yesterday, Sir Denis arrived at the Belgravia flat carrying a suitcase and a briefcase and told reporters: "We are

Brave face: Stuart Lockwood, the boy paraded by Saddam Hussein, managing a smile yesterday after receiving a courage award from the Duchess of York Report, page 20

Greater checks on sex offenders

By Nicholas Watt

THE government is considering supervising sex offenders after they complete their sentences after worries that they often reoffend, John Patten, the Home Office minister, said yesterday.

He said that during the supervision period offenders would get intensive help "to get them off the kind of addictive problem which seems to underlie most sex offending in this country".

This could involve counselling, psychiatric or medical help. A Home Office spokesman said an amendment could be made to the criminal justice bill up to the report stage, which was not expected to be completed until February.

Under the bill the government is proposing that prisoners released on parole after serving half their sentence would be supervised for the next quarter by a probation officer. The final quarter would be on licence. Sex offenders currently receive treatment only if they are sentenced to a special unit.

David Owen, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, welcomed Mr Patten's proposals as a positive step forward. The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said yesterday that Mr Patten's proposals would work only if more money was provided for specialist treatment centres for sex offenders.

Jail suicides cause Baker 'great concern'

By Bill Frost

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, said yesterday that he was greatly concerned about the number of suicides in prisons, particularly among young people, and said conditions in many local jails and remand centres were unsatisfactory.

He was responding to a critical report from Judge Tumim, the chief inspector of prisons, that called for better conditions and more effective suicide-prevention strategies. This year, 48 prisoners have killed themselves, continuing the trend of the past three years.

Judge Tumim said that the number of suicides indicated that prison department strategies were not working well enough. His report made 123 recommendations, and proposed a code of practice designed to reduce depression among inmates. The design of cells and prison hospitals

should be improved and integral sanitation installed, he said. New windows should be fitted immediately, so that prisoners cannot use bars set into the outside wall to hang themselves.

The judge was particularly anxious about the vulnerability of young people in custody, who were more likely to cope with being behind bars. "Generally, no male aged 17 or under should be remanded in prison," the report said.

Staffing levels should be improved so that inmates can have a "proper and meaningful regime with at least 8 hours a day out of a cell, with full association during evenings and weekends".

Mr Baker said yesterday that steps had already been taken to make the prison department's strategy towards inmates at risk of committing suicide more effective. Increasing numbers of people entering the prison system were at some risk of suicide, he said. "Their emotional and psychological problems are bound to be heightened by factors such as separation from families, anxiety over trial and sentence, and guilt about their offences." An overlarge prison population endured cramped and oppressive living conditions, as well as restrictions on all activities.

The government was committed to providing a solution, he said, and promised more regular and thorough reviews of suicide-prevention practice; an easy-to-use checklist to help prison staff; closer links with counselling groups such as the Samar-

itans; and the diversion, wherever possible, of mentally disordered people from prison to hospital.

Mr Baker said: "I am greatly concerned about the number of deaths in prison, particularly among young people. I have asked the director general of prisons to give the matter a high priority."

Crime figures rise, page 2
Roger Graef, page 10
Leading article, page 11

THIS SATURDAY
AT HARRODS,
JEFFREY ARCHER WILL
BE WRITING A
NEW BEGINNING TO
ALL HIS BOOKS.

Novelist and playwright Jeffrey Archer will be coming to Harrods Book Department this Thursday. He'll be signing copies of all his books, from 'Kane and Abel' to 'A Twist in the Tale'. You can meet him and pick up your favourite title between 10am and 12.30pm. If you cannot come to Harrods a signed copy of any of the books can be reserved or sent to you. Please phone for details of prices.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY HODDER AND STOUGHTON.

Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Tel: 071-730 1234.

Harrods

Diary, page 10

CHRISTMAS IN THE TIMES

Not forgetting a Jumbo prize

What is to be done when the holiday starts to drag? The solution is the famous Times Jumbo crossword, on Christmas Eve and New Year's day, each offering a prize of £50 to the first five correct solutions

INSIDE

Field wins new party enquiry

Frank Field has won another battle in his campaign to save his parliamentary career as Labour's national executive ordered a fresh enquiry into his Birkenhead party. Approved by 19 votes to six, it will mean that the timetable for the rerun reselection contest, favoured by the local party, cannot be met. Page 4

Hotel vetoed

Michael Heseltine (above), the environment secretary, has refused planning permission for Marlborough Homes Ltd to build a £7 million hotel complex at West Kennett farm, Avebury, Wiltshire. Page 3

Cod cuts battle

Britain is fighting to stave off cuts in its catches of cod and haddock as Brussels tries to impose new quotas to protect dwindling North Sea stocks. Page 8

Olympic bid

The British Olympic Association agreed to hear bids from cities wanting to stage the 2000 Games in the United Kingdom. Pages 35, 36

INDEX

Arts	17-18
Births, marriages, deaths	13
Business	21-26
Court & social	12
Crosswords	13-20
Law Report	26
Leading articles	11
Letters	11-12
Obituaries	15
Science & Technology	32-36
Sport	19
TV & radio	20
Weather	20



Thatcher outside her new Belgravia home yesterday

Thatcher chooses a new home from home

By Nicholas Watt

MARGARET Thatcher is swapping the obscurity of leafy Dulwich for the grandeur of a flat in Belgravia, in a house once occupied by another former prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, it was announced yesterday.

An anonymous American friend has lent the exclusive top floor apartment, at Eaton Square, after Mrs Thatcher found it inconvenient to return to Dulwich to change between engagements in central London. Abel Hadden, Mrs Thatcher's spokesman, described the flat as a pied-à-terre and said the couple would still be based in Dulwich.

He denied they planned to sell their £500,000 house on the mock-Georgian estate by the South Circular Road.

Yesterday, Sir Denis arrived at the Belgravia flat carrying a suitcase and a briefcase and told reporters: "We are

certainly not going to move in here permanently." Asked if he and his wife would be there for more than three months, he joked: "I wouldn't know. Nobody tells me."

Mrs Thatcher pulled up in a chauffeur-driven Jaguar, followed by a security car, and was whisked inside by her bodyguards without talking to reporters.

The Thatchers can now boast an impressive array of neighbours, although it was not clear whether Mrs Thatcher would be dropping in for tea with Michael Heseltine, who lives just a stone's throw away.

One of her immediate next door neighbours is Lord Howard, who said yesterday: "I would welcome her with open arms to the neighbourhood."

Special Branch officers, who guard Mrs Thatcher permanently, positioned themselves around Eaton Square yes-

terday and quickly installed video surveillance cameras at the four-storey house. Plain-clothes officers hovered nervously just out of sight.

Wags speculated last night whether Mrs Thatcher had moved into the house hoping for a bit of inspiration from Stanley Baldwin, who was Conservative prime minister three times from 1923 to 1924, 1924 to 1929, and 1935 to 1937. However, Neville Chamberlain, who never made it back to Number 10 for a second time, once lived directly opposite Mrs Thatcher's new flat.

Protests surfaced in the Commons last night over the disclosure in the London Evening Standard of the full address of the Thatchers' new flat. Frank Haynes, (Lab, Ashfield), said naming the address was a breach of security.

Arsenal captain sent to prison after admitting drink-driving

By David Young

TONY Adams, the England soccer player and captain of Arsenal football club, was yesterday jailed for four months after admitting drink-driving offences.

His sentence signalled the determination of courts to hit drink-drivers hard in the run-up to Christmas. Also jailed yesterday was a woman airline pilot who killed a pensioner as she drove to work the morning after she had been drinking.

Adams, aged 26, of Rainham, Essex, admitted drinking at a barbecue before his car hit a telegraph pole and smashed into a garden wall. He was given a nine-month jail sentence, with five months suspended for reckless driving, and three months to run concurrently for driving with excess alcohol. He was banned from driving for two years and ordered to pay £500 costs.

Southend crown court was told that Adams sped through a road junction at 73mph after leaving the party at Rayleigh, Essex. His Ford XR4 was out of control, spun round and slid sideways before snapping a telegraph pole and veering across the road into a wall.

Adams was due to fly to Singapore with the Arsenal team on the night of the crash. He caught the plane with minutes to spare after he was released from custody. He is reported to have told police who went to the scene: "I am sorry mate. It is my fault. I'm just glad I'm alive. A car just pulled out of a driveway."

Gilbert Gray, QC, counsel for the defence, said: "Adams was seen driving off with no anxiety about his condition. He recalls nothing about beginning to feel that he had too much to drink and he still

cannot understand the very high level of analysis."

Adams was supported through the hearing by George Graham, the Arsenal manager, Pat Jennings, the former Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, Kenneth Fryer the Arsenal managing director, and David Dein, the club's vice-chairman. They all went into the witness box to give character references.

The court heard that Adams, who earns £150,000 a year and has won 18 caps for England, was fined £2,000 by his club after the crash.

Judge Frank Lockhart said: "It is incredible to think that you came out of that car alive, let alone unscathed. It was

Continued on page 20, col 4

Bending the law, page 2
Photograph and background, page 36

Pound falls amid new signs of recession

By Anatole Kaletsky
ECONOMICS EDITOR

STERLING fell sharply on the foreign exchanges yesterday, responding to renewed hopes that British interest rates might be cut in the new year, as well as a surge by the German mark against all other currencies. The fall in the pound coincided with new evidence that the recession in Britain is growing deeper.

The government's half-yearly survey of manufacturing industry's investment intentions showed the steepest fall in planned capital spending since the last recession. Manufacturers said they would cut investment by 7 per cent in 1991 and hold capital spending at this level during 1992. Six months ago, they had estimated an increase of 2 per cent in real terms in investments next year.

The government also reported that gross domestic product fell by 1.2 per cent in the third quarter, the biggest fall since the 1980 recession. This was a final revision of earlier estimates, but was somewhat worse than analysts had been expecting.

Full details, page 21

Recorded crime rise of 14% creates highest offence total

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CRIMES recorded by the police in England and Wales rose by 14 per cent for the 12 months to the end of September to a new peak of 4.3 million offences, according to statistics issued yesterday by the Home Office.

Quarterly figures for July to September also released yesterday offered little comfort. Recorded crime rose by 16 per cent compared with the same period of 1989, making it one of the highest crime increases on record. The previous quarter showed a 17 per cent rise.

The figures indicate that 1990 will prove to be a disastrous reversal in the government's fight to bring down the crime rate, with an average increase in the first nine months of 16 per cent. The annual average increase between 1980-9 was 5 per cent.

The largest increases over the year were seen in the county forces. Leicestershire, with an increase of 29.5 per cent, was top of the 43 forces, while eight other shire forces showed rises above 20 per cent. Scotland Yard reported a

9 per cent rise. The Metropolitan police forces recorded an average rise of 10 per cent against an average 18 per cent increase among other forces. The only force not to show an increase was Merseyside, where offences dropped by 0.5 per cent.

Crimes against property accounted for 94 per cent, or 4.1 million, of the annual total of 4.3 million offences, with violent crime, at 246,000 offences, accounting for 6 per cent of the total. The overall increase of 548,000 offences in the 12-month period was due to a 300,000 rise of thefts, including 200,000 vehicle crime incidents.

Burglaries rose by 17 per cent to 945,000 offences, the highest percentage rise in any one group, and theft and handling by 15 per cent to 2.2 million offences. Personal violence rose by 3.9 per cent to 182,000 offences, compared with a rise of 9.2 per cent in the previous 12 months. Sex offences rose by just 1 per cent to 29,000, compared with 6 per cent.

Police said yesterday that they

faced damaging financial cuts at a time when crime was increasing because of a decline in discipline, lack of parental control and poor personal security.

There is already speculation that this year's increases have been caused by a rise in the public's reporting of crime due to insurance company demands, greater policing on the streets, repeat offending by individuals released on bail, and a mild winter followed by a warm summer.

The figures show that car owners and manufacturers continue to ignore the risks of crime, leading to a 22.7 per cent annual rise in thefts of cars to 464,000 offences and an 18.4 per cent rise in thefts from vehicles to 728,000 offences. A 16 per cent rise in burglaries from homes to a total of 497,000 offences calls into question the effectiveness of the neighbourhood watch system and televised crime prevention campaigns.

John Patten, minister of state at the Home Office, said yesterday that more than half of the increase in recorded crime was due to a rise in petty thefts, particularly involving cars. "It seems incredible that the theft of and from cars reached 1.2 million during that time — a far cry from the 160,000 recorded back in 1960. Car registrations may have risen from 9 million to 24 million since then but unfortunately that is not the only thing that seems to have changed."

He said too many car owners were leaving their vehicles unlocked. "Victims should not be blamed for the crimes which hurt them but locking the car is something we simply cannot afford to forget. The moral is clearly 'lock it or lose it'."

On the overall figures Mr Patten said he was encouraged by signs that the increase in violent offences might be slowing. "During the period July to September, violent crime was just 2 per cent higher than in the same period last year. And sexual offences decreased by 1 per cent compared with the same period in 1989, following decreases of 5 per cent and 2 per cent in the first and second quarters of the year."

The Association of Chief Police Officers said in a statement that a recent international survey still made Britain one of the most law-abiding countries in Europe, and the country remains relatively non-violent. David Owen, chief constable of North Wales and the association's president, said:

"There is no simple solution that the police can provide. We haven't got sufficient manpower to take on board all this crime."

Offences could not be shrugged off as merely petty incidents, Mr Owen said. "A theft is a theft — whether you have stolen £5 off a widow or £25,000 from a bank. The banker, as long as none of his staff is hurt, will shrug his shoulders, but the widow will be absolutely distraught."

The retail trade, which is facing a 12 per cent increase in shoplifting, called on the Home Office yesterday to allow it to vet security staff for criminal records. Tim McGough, senior executive of the Retail Consortium, said that the government should be more sympathetic to the request to have access to criminal records after a 26,000 increase in shop thefts during the past year to 241,700 offences.

Roger Graef, page 10
Leading article, page 11



Dennis Ravenhill next to an East German minesweeper at a Humberside shipyard yesterday

Gang's haul after kidnap may be £2m

By ADAM FRESCO

POLICE said last night that four men who had held the wife of a Securicor van driver hostage and forced her husband to leave money at a pre-arranged point had escaped with a substantial amount. It is thought that the haul may be as much as £2 million.

Securicor is offering its biggest ever reward of £100,000 for the return of the money and the conviction of the armed gang.

The ordeal for the couple, who are not being named, began on Tuesday night when two men knocked on the door of their home at Chigwell, Essex, and forced their way inside. The wife was blindfolded and bound and driven away. Her husband was told that if he did not co-operate, she would be seriously injured.

He went to his depot yesterday morning, followed by two of the gang, and picked up the cash and two colleagues and then drove to King's Stars Close, Rotherhithe, where he unloaded the money on to the pavement next to a red van as instructed. He then alerted police. His wife had been left in Epping Forest unharmed and managed to get to a police station yesterday morning.

A police spokesman said that the robbery was "very professional". He said: "They do appear to have had inside information."

Securicor said the incident was the first attack by criminals on relatives of its guards. It had been forming a family protection plan.

Heavy duty presents as a fighting force goes to the scrapyard

SHOULD you still be searching for that unusual Christmas present for the man who has everything, Dennis Ravenhill thinks he might have the answer (Peter Davenport writes). Take your pick from 70 East German minesweepers, the odd frigate, 8,500 tanks, several hundred submarines or entire squadrons of fighter aircraft and bombers.

Mr Ravenhill is a scrap metal merchant who was quick to see the chance of commercial profit from the improved relations between East and West and, in particular, the re-unification of the two Germanies. Three visits to what was East Germany earlier this year resulted in contracts that destined a sizeable section of the country's military hardware for his breaker's yards near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and Goole, Humberside.

Mr Ravenhill runs a firm started by his father 25 years ago, which has an annual turnover of between £500,000 and £1.25 million. The company, which employs around a dozen men, is involved in general demolition and scrap metal work. The initiative to cash in on the peace dividend is, however, its largest undertaking to date, although it has previously scrapped 300 coal barges.

Mr Ravenhill was tipped off by a friend who had worked in East Germany about the likely sell-off of about 80 per cent of the country's military hardware. During one of his resulting three visits

to the country, there was a degree of misunderstanding when he was suspected of spying while taking photographs at a tank factory, and ended up with a gun in his ribs.

However, after detailed negotiations, he eventually invested £100,000 of his own money into the deal, which is in staged payments, and sought the support of bankers and financial backers. "I couldn't believe it was happening," he said yesterday. "As we came out of the last meeting, one of the men with me said 'pinch me, it's not real'. We hoped that, with this deal, we could retire in six years."

Mr Ravenhill is one of a small group of British scrap metal merchants taking advantage of the demilitarisation of Europe to buy big amounts of obsolete and unwanted equipment from former Eastern-bloc countries eager for Western currency and lacking the expertise and facilities to do the work themselves. In London, agents for the Soviet shipping sales company are offering submarines, frigates and destroyers for scrap.

The shine has been taken off Mr Ravenhill's deal, however, by the downturn in Britain's economy. Prices on the British non-ferrous scrap metal market have fallen sharply this year, with the availability of cheap East European scrap and the strong pound combining to force down rates from £58 a ton to £35 a ton in the past three months.

Yesterday, Mr Ravenhill said that he needed to realise at least £45 a ton to break even. He has already paid for four minesweepers and a frigate. Two of the 300-ton minesweepers have been scrapped and work is progressing on the 1,100-ton frigate.

He is coming under pressure, however, to step up the rate at which he accepts the ships but, because of present prices, is reluctant to do so. Each vessel takes between three and six weeks to scrap and the salvaged metal is sold to the steel industry, where it is processed for use in the manufacture of anything from cars to cutlery.

To ease the burden, Mr Ravenhill is trying to pass on some of his "bargain-buys" to other scrap metal merchants. Alternative prospects include an enquiry from a businessman who wants to refurbish a minesweeper for use as a floating hotel-restaurant on the Thames, and a suggestion that another country wants four of the vessels for its navy. If all that fails and prices do not pick up, however, Mr Ravenhill fears that he may not be able to complete the deal.

Arms find a blow to IRA terror campaign, police say

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

POLICE believe that the discovery of a large provisional IRA arms cache in Co Tyrone on Tuesday has frustrated a local Christmas terror campaign. The find, by a joint RUC-army search party, was announced yesterday.

Two Chinese AKM assault rifles, a US Armalite high velocity weapon, a Walther pistol, magazines, 84 rounds of ammunition, 5lb of Semtex plastic explosive and a pint of highly explosive nitro-benzene were found buried in a plastic barrel behind a derelict farm house near Dromore.

A senior RUC officer said the equipment appeared to have been concealed recently. He said the find had prevented one or more terrorist incidents over Christmas.

Meanwhile, at Lisburn, Co Antrim, the victims of two separate explosions were being treated in hospital where both will be detained for several days.

A man aged 25 who had no connection with the security forces received eye and face injuries but was not seriously injured when a bomb went off after he opened his car bonnet. Loyalist sources suggested that he might have been the victim of mistaken identity.

Three hours later a home made grenade was thrown among revelers as they left a Catholic Hibernian club. A woman aged 39 was taken to hospital with leg injuries. The Ulster Freedom Fighters, an off-shoot of the legal Ulster Defence Association, claimed responsibility for the second explosion saying that it was in retaliation for the first which is assumed to have been carried out by republicans.

Australian wins top defence job

Sir Peter Levene, who is leaving his job as the government's chief of defence procurement next March after six years, is to be succeeded by a civil servant from Australia, it was announced yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

Malcolm McIntosh, at present secretary of the Australian department of industry, technology and commerce, applied for the job when it was advertised by the Civil Service Commission.

Dr McIntosh, aged 45, who rose to the rank of major during national service with the Australian army, beat a number of other applicants for the ministry post, including Sir Donald Spiers, at present controller of aircraft, one of the favourites.

Dr McIntosh, who was chief of defence production in Australia in 1987, has been given a three-year contract, worth £77,000 a year.

Sunday store ban

Dixons, the electrical shop, was yesterday banned by a High Court judge from trading on a Sunday in Gateshead. Judge Maddocks, sitting in Leeds, granted an injunction stopping the firm opening its stores on Sunday after an application by Gateshead metropolitan borough council. The company, which has 900 stores, vowed to keep open its doors in other parts of the country on Sundays until challenged by local councils.

Subsidy switch

Sir George Young, housing minister, yesterday announced new housing subsidies intended to increase the use of short-term leases for housing the homeless and to avoid the need for local authorities to turn to bed and breakfast accommodation. He said in a written parliamentary answer that he wanted to ensure that the new rules left councils with flexibility to deal with the homeless, and proposed a transfer of £25 million to help them.

Jailed over fake

A man who handled a painting he thought was a Gainsborough worth £1 million was jailed for 12 years at Nottingham crown court yesterday after hearing it was a fake. Anthony Slacks, aged 24, of Nottingham, was cleared of theft, but jailed for handling the picture, which was stolen from the home of Mrs Maimi Gillies, of Billborough, Nottingham. A second Nottingham man, Henry Alvin, 32, was jailed for three years for firearms offences.

Police chiefs warn Baker on cuts

By PETER DAVENPORT

SIX chief constables of forces that cover large conurbations have written to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, warning him that government plans to cap the poll tax will have a drastic effect on their ability to fight rising crime.

They say that the only way to achieve the spending cuts being called for is to reduce the numbers of police officers on the streets. In some cases, it would also mean banning the purchase of new equipment and vehicles.

The chief constables are James Anderton of Greater Manchester, James Sharpe of Merseyside, Sir Stanley Bailey of Northumbria, Richard Wells of South Yorkshire, Ron Hadfield of West Midlands, and Peter Nobes of West Yorkshire. It was an initiative by Mr Nobes that led to the joint approach. Each of them outlines the effects of proposed spending restrictions that total more than £45 million and which would mean about 1,500 fewer officers on the streets. The effects on individual forces are:

GREATER MANCHESTER: a reduction in real terms of at least £5 million would mean 200 fewer police officers, 150 fewer civilian staff, and a cut in the level of equipment and supplies to support operational policing.

MERSEYSIDE: a reduction of £7.3 million would bring a freeze on all police and civilian recruitment, resulting in 400 fewer officers on the streets. There would be reduced training and no new vehicles or equipment.

NORTHUMBRIA: a reduction of £6.4 million would mean losing up to 300 officers, a cut of 8.5 per cent. There would be no new vehicles or equipment.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE: a reduction of £4.6 million would lead to a freeze on all police and civilian recruitment, resulting in 220 fewer officers on the beat. There would be no new vehicles or equipment, and for the second year running no new measures to improve efficiency or cost effectiveness.

WEST MIDLANDS: a reduction

of £14.7 million, the largest cut of all six forces, would lead to a reduction in police recruitment in 1991-2 of up to 100 officers and 250 civilians. Spending on vehicles, equipment and uniforms would be cut by 5 to 10 per cent. There would also be cuts in the force information technology programme and in-force training programmes would be reduced.

WEST YORKSHIRE: a reduction of £8 million would mean a freeze on all police and civilian recruitment, resulting in up to 500 fewer officers on the beat. There would be no new vehicles or equipment.

This week a delegation from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, including councillors from each of the six force areas, met Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister with responsibility for the police, to express concern at the likely impact of financial cuts. Mr Hadfield, the West Midlands chief constable, was present as an adviser to the delegation.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that there was some sympathy in the Home Office for the plight faced by the six police forces. The poll tax, however, was a matter for the environment department and any relief may have to await the poll tax review.



Baker: told that fight against crime is threatened

Bending the law could lead to breath-test anxiety

AS Saghaier Ahmed drove through the dark streets of Birmingham early yesterday, a defective headlight on his car, a police car pulled out from a side street and, blue lights flashing, pulled him over to the side of the road. Within minutes, he was being breath-tested.

Mr Ahmed, on his way to open his newsagent's shop near the city centre, was stopped at 6.45am, as West Midlands police began their annual campaign against drink-driving.

It will run until January 1 and, for the first time, all motorists involved in accidents or committing even minor offences will be routinely breathalysed.

Mr Ahmed's breath-test, carried out by PC Chris Walker, was negative, and he went on his way. PC Walker, aged 30, got back into his traffic car and radioed back to base on the first breath-test of

his eight-hour shift. PC Brian Shaw, aged 49, who was driving, headed into south Birmingham. He said: "Some people drink and drive throughout the year, but one of the problems of Christmas is that you get people drinking and driving who do not normally do it and they cannot handle it."

As the officers drove through Balsall Heath, the early morning traffic was building up slowly to rush hour activity. The officers knew that, the night before, Birmingham's hotels, pubs and clubs had been filled with Christmas party-goers, many of whom had taken taxis home, but were now driving into work after only a few hours sleep and with alcohol still in their systems. It was likely that some were still over the limit without realising it.

At 7.37am, a road traffic accident in their south Birmingham patch. Blue lights on,

As drink-drivers face Christmas in jail, Craig Seton goes out with the dawn patrol to report on the crackdown by West Midlands police

siren screaming, their car threaded through the traffic to King's Norton, where a young motorist cyclist had collided with a car, suffering chest injuries. While the motor cyclist was taken to hospital, Paul Murphy, the driver involved in the accident, was automatically breathalysed. The result was negative.

Mr Murphy, an electrician, had seen a report on West Midlands' tougher line on drink-driving on early morning television. "I think it is a good idea, especially around

this time of day," he said. "My wife is a nurse who works in theatre so she sees the results of accidents."

PC Walker said: "That was a typical road accident, but they can be much worse when people have been drinking."

The legal limit is 35 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. PC Walker said: "We had one who was up to 160 [microgrammes]. When I stopped him and opened his door, he just fell out."

The officers drove back into Birmingham, eyeing cars for defects, motorists speeding or drivers without seat belts. Any of the offences would give them reason to breathalyse drivers.

A van driver was stopped for doing 42mph in a 30mph zone, and was negatively breathalysed, but cautioned for the speeding offence. It was the third

and final breath test carried out by the officers, whose shift ended at 1.30pm.

They returned to their base at the central traffic unit in Aston, Birmingham, where five car crews had reported a total of 14 breath tests that morning. All were negative.

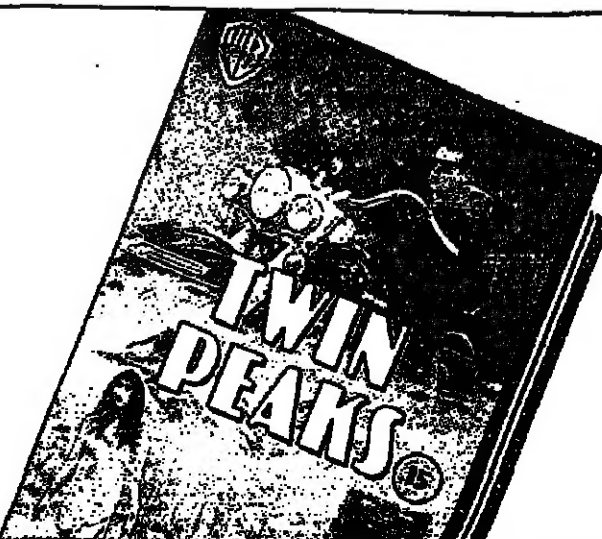
In the 12 days from December 19 last year, West Midlands police breath-tested over 1,100 drivers, of which more than 250 were over the limit. This year's figures are likely to be higher, but the force insists that its campaign falls far short of mass stop checks or random testing.

Sergeant John Cracknell, who briefed the traffic patrols in Birmingham yesterday, said the police were not hounding motorists. "It is a question of trying to make the roads safer."

Drivers jailed, page 1

TWIN PEAKS

ON VIDEO



Twin Peaks
Video (Cert 15) £9.99
The pilot episode of David Lynch's surreal TV mystery is now available on video. Set in a tranquil American backwater, it contains 20 minutes of previously unseen footage posing even more clues as to who killed Laura Palmer.

Price correct at time of going to press. Available at all WH Smith Video Stockists.

WH SMITH
More to discover

مكتبة الأصل

'Courts must draw the line between what is acceptable in a civilised society and what is not'

15 men convicted of degrading and vicious practices

By DAVID YOUNG

THE men who ran Britain's biggest pornography ring were jailed yesterday after a hearing at the Old Bailey that was seen as a test case over whether the courts should interfere with the sexual lives of consenting adults.

Judge Rant issued a warning that those who take part in perverted acts of sex and violence face jail, even if it is with consenting adults in the privacy of their home. It is likely that the case will go to the Court of Appeal for a definitive ruling.

The 15 men, including an international lawyer with limited diplomatic immunity, a missile designer with security clearance and a lay preacher, admitted offences ranging from inflicting violence on each other, themselves, causing actual bodily harm by genital torture, and in one case having sexual intercourse with farm animals, handling and developing obscene films.

The judge said: "Much has been said about individual liberty and the rights people have to do what they want with their own bodies but the courts must draw the line between what is acceptable in a civilised society and what is not. In this case, the practices clearly lie on the wrong side of that line."

The practices were "degrading and vicious" and no one who had heard what had happened would say, "men should be free to practise this kind of thing on one another". He added: "This is not a witch-hunt against homosexuals. The unlawful conduct before the court would result equally in the prosecution of heterosexuals or bisexuals."

Nor is it a campaign to curtail the private sexual activities of citizens of this country."

The judge accepted that all had consented, that no money changed hands for sexual services and that the videos were not intended for wider circulation. However, he had to consider the degree of injury inflicted, the extent to which younger men, albeit with similar inclinations, were corrupted, the use of drugs and the involvement of child pornography and sexual intercourse with animals.

Barristers representing some of the men argued that they should be able to put forward a defence to the charges alleging acts of violence, on the grounds that the victims consented. Judge Rant rejected that argument and the men pleaded guilty.

The judge was told by Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, that its case was not intended to "violate the letter or the spirit" of the law, which followed the Wolfenden report and allowed homosexual acts between consenting adults in private. He said that the case went far beyond what the law allowed in that it involved "the violent and deliberate inflicting of injury and pain on human beings often to the point of real torture". It also involved "brute homosexual activity in sinister circumstances about as far removed as can be imagined from the concept of human love".

The court heard how an ever increasing number of men, including two former teachers, were drawn into a web of violent sado-masochistic sex at secret "torture" chambers. For seven days a crowded courtroom and public gallery heard details of how some members of the ring took part in torture sessions, group sex, dressed up in Nazi uniforms, and in one case committed acts of indecency with animals. The men acted out their wildest fantasies at well-equipped "torture" chambers and dungeons all over the country.

Many witnesses associated with the ring were promised that their identities would not be revealed when they came forward to help the police. Detectives were so alarmed by a violent scene shown on a video film made by some of the men that they suspected it may have been a snuff movie with an actual murder being performed before the camera.

When they searched a country house in Shropshire shared by Ian Wilkinson, aged 56, a forester, and Peter Grindley, aged 41, a care assistant in a home for the mentally handicapped, they took sniffer dogs to search for "bodies in the garden", the court heard.

Mr Worsley said: "There has been no suggestion that any of the victims of violence died from their injuries. The acts they performed were clearly designed, in most cases, to give sexual pleasure. The acts occurred nationwide. A number of those involved had their homes equipped with veritable torture chambers."

The factors that made the pornography ring so sinister were the horrifying violence, the corruption of youth, group sex, the use of drugs, sex with animals and child pornography, Mr Worsley said. The ring had an "inner circle" of middle-aged men, but youths, one aged 15, were corrupted after being brought in as slaves. The court heard that one man associated with the gang had died of AIDS and another had contracted the disease.

The judge studied videos showing some of the worst acts of violence. He went



Sado-masochist gang: Ian Wilkinson, Peter Grindley, Anthony Brown, John Lofthouse and Donald Anderson



Colin Lasky, Roland Jaggard, Christopher Carter, Christopher Zimmerle and Saxon Lucas



John Atkinson, Graham Sharp, Graham Cadman, Anthony Oversby and Albert Groom

white in the face and asked for an adjournment after watching the most horrifying video. He later said: "I am not likely to forget that one. No one would."

Many of the men were leading secret lives. Some are married or living with girlfriends. Others held highly paid jobs. Their workmates did not even realise they were homosexuals, let alone that they were involved in sado-masochistic sex.

An investigation into their activities began when police in the Bolton area of Greater Manchester found a film in which the violence depicted was so severe they set about tracking down those involved. The ring leaders of the group were Wilkinson and Grindley, who shared a country house equipped for torture, Colin Lasky, Anthony Brown, Gra-

ham Cadman and Roland Jaggard. They advertised in homosexual contact magazines and received many replies.

Last night, Det Supt Michael Hames, head of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad, said after the trial that sado-masochistic pornography was becoming more bizarre, more violent and more widespread. He issued a warning that it would eventually lead to a death being filmed.

The report on the police operation, condemned Spanner, sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions had named a total of 43 people. However, the DPP had decided to limit the prosecution to 16 of them.

Mr Hames said advanced technology and the search for ever more bizarre thrills were leading to the production of

videos featuring appalling scenes of torture. "With the advance in technology, people are able to make these films very easily for only the cost of hiring a video camera. The more sophisticated technology becomes, the more possibilities open up and the more difficult they will be to detect. For example, we are beginning to see computers with porn being downloaded through telephone lines."

A government study, still to be published, which reviewed existing research material on the effects of pornography on attitudes and behaviour claims there are no direct link between pornography and sex crimes.

However, Mr Hames said: "How can that be? If we are not affected by what we see, what is the point of advertisers spending billions of pounds

making us buy goods we would not buy otherwise?"

Dr Jeremy Coid, consultant forensic psychiatrist at St Bartholomew's, London, said that those who found pleasure in pain could have a history of physical or emotional abuse. He said there was no easy answer as to why such men enjoyed tortures and perversions. "It would not surprise me if you found in their backgrounds various permutations of abuse, either physical or emotional deprivation."

He believed people were born with traits which predisposed them to certain behaviour but those were coupled with the way they were treated while growing up. Dr Coid said the men would have been in such a state of arousal during the torture they would not have felt the pain.

Sutcliffe libel case jury told of alleged perjury

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE jury in the libel action brought against the *News of the World* by Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, was told yesterday that they faced a choice between seeing her as a scheming perjurer or as a victim of deceit, dishonesty and repeated libels.

George Carman, QC, for the defence, said that Mrs Sutcliffe was a "clever, confident, cold and calculating" woman. She had used the opportunity of giving evidence "to mount a spirited defence of her husband and, in so doing, to dance on the graves of the victims".

He alleged that Mrs Sutcliffe had committed perjury in her successful libel action against *Private Eye* last year and again in the present trial, and had involved her mother in covering up her perjury.

During the *Private Eye* case Mrs Sutcliffe had concealed three documents, he said. Two were receipts for £10,000 and £15,000 from Barbara Jones, chief reporter of *The Mail on Sunday*. The third was a note that Miss Jones passed to Mrs Sutcliffe's mother while Mrs Sutcliffe was giving evidence.

Mr Carman said: "It is our submission that the evidence is completely compelling that she concealed these documents from her lawyers because she wanted to avoid any weakening of her claim for damages." He added that in committing perjury Mrs Sutcliffe had made the whole of her evidence worthless.

Geoffrey Shaw, for Mrs Sutcliffe, said that the allegation of perjury left unexplained why Mrs Sutcliffe gave the documents to her solicitor in September 1989, before the hearing of *Private Eye's* appeal.

He told the jury that the trial was about "a sex story placed on its front page by the *News of the World* to maintain its sales at over five million copies". If it was untrue, Mrs Sutcliffe was entitled to damages. The story was the product of double dealing and deception by three people: Barbara Jones, her partner and photographer Ian Parry, and George Papadimitis, a Greek tour company director with whom it was claimed Mrs Sutcliffe had had a holiday romance.

Mr Shaw said that Mrs Sutcliffe had been tormented by the press since her husband's arrest in 1981. "She has been repeatedly and gravely libelled," he said.

The judge, Mr Justice Drake, began his summing-up by reminding the jury that Mrs Sutcliffe did not complain that the *News of the World* had falsely accused her of having sex with Mr Papadimitis. Her complaint was that it had accused her of deceiving Mr Papadimitis and of stealing from him.

The summing-up continues today.

The guilty men and their sentences

THE sentences of those convicted yesterday were: Ian Wilkinson, aged 56, forester, and Peter Grindley, 41, care assistant, both of Whitechurch, Shropshire, each jailed for three and a half years; Colin Lasky, 46, computer operator, of Pontypriid, Mid Glamorgan, and Graham Cadman, 52, ice cream salesman, of Horwich, Bolton, both four and a half years; Anthony Brown, 54, retired local government officer, of Yardley, Birmingham, two years and nine months; Roland Jaggard, 42, missile design engineer, three years; Saxon Lucas, 57, lay preacher, of Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, three years; Donald Anderson, 60, retired pig breeder, of Harford, Llanwrda, Dyfed, 12 months; John Atkinson, 48, antiques restorer, and restaurateur of Broadway, Hereford and Worcester, two

years' probation; Christopher Carter, 37, Sany-dress hire proprietor, of Frankwell, Shropshire, 12 months, suspended for two years; Christopher Zimmerle, 51, lawyer with International Maritime Organisation, of Havant, Hampshire, 12 months, suspended for two years; John Lofthouse, 49, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, retired fire officer, 21 months, suspended for two years; Anthony Oversby, 56, untrioled, of Bayswater, west London, 15 months, suspended for two years; Albert Groom, 55, hotel porter, of Thornaby-on-Tees, Cleveland, conditional discharge; and Graham Sharp, 41, photographic developer, of Coquit Heath, Avon, fined £1,000. Paul Kelly, 23, of Horwich, Greater Manchester, given two-year conditional discharge earlier this year.

Rights protest at 'morality dictated by judges'

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CALLS for a right of privacy to be enshrined in law so it is not left to judges to decide what sexual practices are acceptable came last night after the jailing of the men who ran Britain's biggest pornography ring.

The jail sentences came under immediate attack from civil liberties lawyers who said that the sentences were excessive and that judges, in any case, should not be determining what consenting adults could do in private.

Andrew Puddephatt, general secretary of Liberty (formerly the National Council of Civil Liberties), said

the sentences were wrong. "We are all very shocked. Whatever view the courts took as to whether these were criminal activities, given that there is no dispute that all the adults fully consented, these sentences were in some cases longer than for other violent crimes of assault where the victim did not consent."

He said they exceeded the sentence passed in some cases of violent rape of women and in cases where men were accused of so-called queer bashing. It was not for judges "to decide what is acceptable in a civilised society. We urgently need a right of privacy enshrined in law which would at least

be a basis for assessing what is or what is not permissible in private." Mr Puddephatt said that clearly there could not be an absolute right for people to do what they liked, regardless, even with consent. "If someone tortured someone to death, and there was clear evidence the victim consented, we are not saying that is acceptable. There is a line to be drawn. But in this case the line has been drawn incorrectly."

He said that the ruling had effectively criminalised a whole range of sexual activity. "Many things go on such as piercing of nipples and noses, wearing of rings in scrotums and on

penises, which are much more common than you think and which people do for recreational and sexual purposes. But in our system, law is made on the hoof - and suddenly a whole range of other activities are brought within its scope."

Keir Starmer, of the Haldane Society, said that morality was for Parliament, not judges. "In a case such as this, where there was full consent between adults and no abuse of power, the judiciary has effectively imposed its morality on others and the unrepresentative make-up of the judiciary makes it ill-equipped to do this."

Saturday Review

Christmas comes early...

A story specially written for *The Times* by John Mortimer, in which Rumpole of the Bailey gets entangled in matters relating to a certain December day, but not that one

And just in time...

Jonathan Meades rounds up the best of eating out, Frances Bissell cooks up a few ideas pertaining to the leftovers, Jane MacQuitty recommends some party wines, plus the best of holiday television

... or not at all

Brian James talks to the 'lost' children of J.M. Barrie, Anthony Lejeune on Hollywood's revision of Western myths, John Biffen on being suitably addressed, plus the fashion for being very nearly undressed

Make sure of *The Times* on Saturday and over the holiday (we are the only quality newspaper publishing on Boxing Day). Place an order today

RSPB 'wantonly shot goats'

By KERRY GILL

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was yesterday accused of the "wanton destruction" of 64 feral goats on one of its Scottish reserves.

The goats are descended from flocks introduced by Roman legions and roam the hillsides on the edge of Loch Lomond. They are said to be protected by a Royal charter from Robert the Bruce after reputedly saving his life.

John Barrington, an author and shepherd who lives near the society's Inversnaid reserve, said: "It is an absolute outrage and an annual cull will be over my dead body."

The goats were shot by the RSPB last month, although public knowledge of the cull emerged only yesterday. Mr Barrington said the society had compounded its deed by killing mostly female goats.

In recent years, many of the goats have been taken off the reserve and surrounding hillsides for their cashmere wool. The practice kept their numbers down to less than 100 adults a year on the reserve.

David Sexton, the RSPB south Scotland reserves manager, said that between 1986, when the society bought the reserve, and 1989, four or five goats were removed each year and taken to cashmere farms. "It was a slow process. The

reason for moving them was that they were seriously overgrazing the reserve and damaging new seedlings, particularly oak. They were also beginning to damage mature trees," he said.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals advised that rounding up the goats caused them stress, and a cull was considered more humane. After consulting the SSPCA and the Nature Conservancy Council, 64 goats, including 46 nannies, were shot. Mr Sexton said more than 100 goats were on the reserve last month, and that many others were still grazing in the wild.

Recruited as elves to answer the huge volume of mail which arrives there, and to where a great many tourists make pilgrimages.

So convinced are British Airways that they have the right address, that they have been running a competition on long-haul flights this year offering prizes of 1,000 seats on ten special Concorde flights to Finland to meet Santa face-to-face. If he has suddenly upped and moved to a Greenland shipyard, there will be some inconsolable children on board.

Many children believe that Santa lives in Norway, it being the country closest to the North Pole with its far northern outpost of Spitzbergen. Norway has never claimed to be home to Santa, but in past years the head of the Oslo tourist board has dutifully answered all incoming letters on his behalf. In Britain, the

Royal Mail is entirely convinced that Santa does indeed live in Finland, and any letters so addressed are forwarded there. However those addressed to him in Greenland, Norway, or anywhere else, are not, partly because the Royal Mail knows the truth, and partly because the Finnish post office is the only one with which it has such an arrangement.

All other letters to Father Christmas posted in Britain are sent first to his accommodation address in Edinburgh, or to his branch office in Milton Keynes.

This year a record number of 750,000 British children have written to Father Christmas, compared with 600,000 last year, and Royal Mail officials, working on his behalf, ensure that he replies to them all. The letters, naturally, are posted in Reindeerland, and are so franked.

Hotel for Avebury rejected

By JOHN YOUNG

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, yesterday refused planning permission for a hotel complex at Avebury, Wiltshire, that had been seen to threaten ancient monuments.

The proposal by Marlborough Homes for the complex, including a conference centre, hotel and study centre, at West Kennet farm was regarded as a threat to plans by the National Trust to safeguard the surroundings of Avebury's great neolithic monuments.


The two-acre site, now in receivership, was sold to the company for £985,000 and, had the government allowed the development, would have been worth some £7 million, it has been estimated.

The farm lies within the Avebury world heritage site, designated in 1987, and the proposals would have affected two scheduled ancient monuments: West Kennet Avenue, which leads to the famous stone circle, and a recently discovered neolithic/Bronze Age palisaded enclosure.

Mr Heseltine's decision follows a public enquiry in August last year. The enquiry inspector recommended that the proposals be refused, but that changes to the ancient monuments be permitted.

However, Mr Heseltine has set what may be an important precedent by concluding that preference should be for the physical preservation of any remains where they lie as opposed to their preservation by record. He considered the palisaded enclosure to be of such archaeological importance that its integrity should not be compromised by burial beneath new developments.

EXPERIENCE THE PLEASURE OF LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT ALFRED DUNHILL.



Alfred Dunhill will be open from 9.30am until 7.00pm on Thursday December 13th, Thursday December 20th and Saturday December 22nd.

dunhill

Large men's shopping at Alfred Dunhill, 31 Duke Street, St James, London, W1P 0LD

Vulnerable, cornered Kinnock must stop and think

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

When David Owen abandoned his year-long flirtation with Labour for a renewed dalliance with the Tories (he is a dreadful tease: he will never join them either), it was clear that Neil Kinnock's party was in trouble.

Dr Owen may have made a few mistakes in his own political career, but he is a shrewd reader of other people's fortunes. The question being asked now is: "Can Labour beat a compassionate Conservative party?"

Two months ago there was a certain symmetry about British politics. Both the main parties were led by people whom the supporters of the other fervently

wished would continue leading them up to the next election. Neither had a new "Big Idea" to offer for the politics of the Nineties.

Now the Conservatives have removed the leader whom they too had convinced themselves had become an electoral liability. They have discovered that if you have a new leader, you do not really need a new big idea and that the "classless society" will do.

Labour, still bereft of their new inspirational theme, are left with the longest serving leader of the Opposition this century, greeted when he comes to the dispatch box with gleeful cries of "Don't resign" from Tory hecklers.

Precisely a year ago I wrote up

Neil Kinnock as my politician of the year on the ground that his achievements were much undervalued. In reforming the party organisation, weeding out Militants, revamping policies and giving Labour back the will to win, he made his party look once more capable of government.

He has made Labour outwardly safe for social democrats to return to, marginalised the hard left and begun to loosen the trades union strings.

He deserved at least some of the credit, I argued, for Labour's emphatic lead in the opinion polls. More than that, he deserved the credit for lifting himself from the depression of 1988 when the Tories had looked invincible and

the newspapers had been full of headlines about "The leader who lost his way".

But Mr Kinnock now faces an even greater test. Lifting a party from long-term despair when you have taken over with its fortunes at rock bottom is one thing. Lifting it again after you have seen the biggest ever opinion lead over the Tories melt away under your leadership and become a Labour deficit is another task altogether, especially in the face of a whispering campaign that you were never quite up to the job anyway.

There is no threat to Mr Kinnock's leadership; the cumbersome machinery sees to that.

But there must be a threat to his self-confidence and to the morale of the parliamentary party.

So how are the Tories under John Major to be beaten? What does Mr Kinnock do for his next trick? More policy documents will not do the trick. Labour's policies have already had more relaunches than Dame Nellie Melba had hot dinners.

It may be frustrating for him while the honeymoon lasts, but Mr Kinnock would be wise to mute his attacks on Mr Major at this stage. The new Tory leader is an aspirin politician, a man designed for lowering the political temperature.

Labour has to stop and think.

The kneejerk scorn for Michael Heseltine's offer of participation in shaping the future of local government, for example, was unwise. Mr Kinnock and Bryan Gould may not be interested, some Labour municipalities are.

Labour will have to take care too on Europe. On Europe, we just woke up one morning to find Labour announcing itself as a pro-European party. But with the pragmatic Mr Major now edging the Tories too towards speedier integration, Mr Kinnock is in danger of being pushed too far out on a limb by an attempt to sustain the "more European than thou" title. Peter Shore and others are ensuring that the cracks in his own party are now showing on the

EC. Where the Opposition surely can go after the government is on the question of public services and the quality of life. Government politicians express their concerns. But do they produce the money to support them?

Then there is the little matter of the economy. To give his party a chance of winning the election on the economy, however, Mr Kinnock will have to give maximum exposure between now and then to the shadow chancellor John Smith, the man who would be his most potent rival if he does not deliver an election victory.

That, surely, is a risk he has to take.

EC. Where the Opposition surely can go after the government is on the question of public services and the quality of life. Government politicians express their concerns. But do they produce the money to support them?

Then there is the little matter of the economy. To give his party a chance of winning the election on the economy, however, Mr Kinnock will have to give maximum exposure between now and then to the shadow chancellor John Smith, the man who would be his most potent rival if he does not deliver an election victory.

That, surely, is a risk he has to take.

Boost for Field as the Labour leadership orders fresh enquiry

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Field received an important boost in his campaign to save his parliamentary career yesterday when the Labour leadership ordered a fresh enquiry into his local Birkenhead party and delayed its proposed reselection timetable.

A relieved Mr Field said last night that the decision of the ruling national executive to suspend meetings of the Birkenhead party pending further investigations would raise Labour morale on Merseyside and the party's esteem in the country. A key factor

LABOUR NEC

in the decision was a letter written by constituency officers criticising local party members who gave evidence to the NEC enquiry.

The national executive, appointed Joyce Gould, the director of organisation, to carry out a fresh investigation into the conduct of the local party. She will examine how far the recommendations of the earlier enquiry have been implemented. She is also to write to the 500

local party members correcting what party headquarters consider to be inaccuracies in the letter circulated by the chairman and secretary of Birkenhead. She will investigate the selection of candidates for next May's council elections, the activities of the anti-poll-tax federation in the area, and consider whether action should be taken against members of the banned Socialist Organisation.

The investigation means that the local party's hopes of re-running the reselection immediately have been dashed, although Mrs Gould is to report back to the next NEC meeting in January.

Neil Kinnock's customary overwhelming majority on the NEC was reduced as some members who have lost patience with Mr Field's high-profile campaign voted against him.

The investigation was backed by nineteen votes to six. Those opposing it included two members of the shadow cabinet, John Prescott, the transport spokesman, and Jo Richardson, spokeswoman on women's rights. The others were Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Eddie Haigh, of the transport workers' union, and Bill Connor, of the shopworkers' union Usdaw.

Some on the left have claimed that the protracted procedure has been designed to prevent a further reselection taking place before the next general election. In those circumstances Mr Field would be imposed by the NEC as the candidate.

Mr Kinnock, however, told the meeting: "Nothing we are doing is about defending one individual. The Labour party insists on fulfilling the requirements of natural justice, the party constitution and the NEC's own decisions. We will uphold these without fear or favour."

Supporters of Mr Field believed last night that the NEC's intervention against the local party and the suspension of party meetings would sway the ultimate vote in his favour.

Mr Skinner said Mr Field should abide by the rules like everyone else. "He squeals all the time," he said. He added: "I do not think they will ever satisfy Frank Field. Once they have delayed it until January, I think they will come up with another set of proposals to investigate."

David Blunkett said the further delay was the only way forward in Birkenhead because both sides had "made such a terrible mess of things". The constituency party was circulating material and continuing what could easily be interpreted as intimidation, particularly of women members.

Mr Field said the decision would raise the spirits of party loyalists and Labour voters on the Wirral. "It will raise our standing in the country as voters see Neil Kinnock doing everything in his power to see the party is ready for government."

He believed that the enquiry would find that the NEC recommendations had not yet been fully carried out.



Field: "Decision will raise party morale on Merseyside"

Tories 'ready to oust black candidate'

By WILLIAM CASE

TORY rebels in Cheltenham have predicted they will have enough support within ten days to oust the black barrister, John Taylor, as the town's parliamentary candidate.

Local party members demanding a review of Mr Taylor's adoption have said that by December 29 they will have the 50 signatures required by the local Tory association to enforce a special meeting to consider reselection.

The deadline was set by Jack Murray, who is helping to mastermind the attempt to get the reselection process started again. "I am sure that we will have more than enough signatures on the petition demanding a special meeting by that date. The groundswell of public opinion is clear," he said.

The rebels, who are understood to have at least 30 signatures and are led by a local printer, Bob Williams, say that their discontent

CHELTENHAM

with Mr Taylor's selection has nothing to do with racism. Their complaint is that not only were they given no choice of candidate at the adoption meeting of the association two-and-a-half weeks ago but also that the meeting was unconstitutional.

Douglas Barnard, a retired author and prominent local political figure, said yesterday that the adoption meeting was illegal because the officers of the association ignored a motion carried by 113 votes to 93 at the beginning of the meeting that requested that two further names be considered for the candidacy.

Two days after that meeting the issue became controversial nationally when a local party member, Bill Galtbraith, referred to Mr Taylor as a "bloody nigger" and an "invader" from Birmingham.



Plea for women: Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat MP, and Ray Michie, the party's spokesman on women's affairs, at the launch in the Commons yesterday of the party's campaign for more women MPs

Peers speak up for women

Part-time workers should have state and occupational pensions schemes and also entitlement to holidays, redundancy pay and seniority allowances in proportion to those accorded to full-time workers in similar employment.

A House of Lords committee reports today that such benefits, recommended by the European Commission in draft directives, would be a step towards creating equal opportunities for women.

The committee also declares its view that improving the lot of part-time workers in this way would not have an adverse effect on employment opportunities, quoting France and Sweden as countries where employment protection legislation had been extended to part-timers.

Pension bill introduced

A Labour MP's bill to link state retirement pensions to average earnings instead of the retail price index was given an unopposed first reading, but has no prospect of ultimate enactment.

Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) moved the elimination of poverty in retirement bill to provide also for appointment of a minister for retired people.

He said that it was timely because, despite arctic weather, cold weather payments had not been triggered.

Art for tax

In the past month two works of art have been accepted by the Treasury in lieu of tax. Tim Renton, the arts minister, said in a written reply. They are a Sevres dinner service of 350 pieces and a Louis XV bar d'armoire by Bernard Van Risenburgh. They are to pay a tax bill of £1.4 million.

Jail deaths

Forty-eight inmates in prison establishments have died at their own hands this year, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, said in a Commons written reply. A verdict of suicide has been returned on 19 and inquests on 19 were still to be held.

Gulf tax

Francis Maude, financial secretary, Treasury, is considering the tax position of those who have lost income tax exemptions because they have been obliged to return earlier than they had expected from Kuwait and Iraq.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Christmas adjournment debates on various subjects. Lords (11): Civil Jurisdiction and Judgements bill and Caravans (Standard Community Charge and rating) bill, second readings. Short debate on Leeds and Brixton prisons.

Dissolution honours list is due tonight

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher's resignation honours list will be published at midnight tonight.

The list, in which the former prime minister is expected to honour those who were closest to her in Downing Street, is likely to be substantial given that she was in office for eleven-and-a-half years.

Sir Harold Wilson's resignation honours list in 1976 contained 42 names, including nine life peerages. Those honoured with a peerage included Sir Joseph Stone, his personal physician, Sir Bernard Delfont and Sir Lew Grade, Sir Joseph Kagan, the maker of Gannex raincoats and Sir George Weidenfeld, the publisher.

The list also included eight knights and ended with four British Empire Medals which were given to staff at 10 Downing Street, including the senior mes-

senger and the senior cleaner in the prime minister's office.

In contrast, when Harold Macmillan resigned in 1963, there were just 15 names on his list with only one peerage which was given to John Wyndham, his private secretary.

He gave three baronetcies and again four British Empire Medals were awarded to his special branch protection officer, his driver for 11 years, and two women who had been members of the prime minister's domestic household for 11 years.

James Callaghan's dissolution honours in 1979 contained fifty names and included ten life peerages and seven knighthoods. Among those awarded a knighthood was Thomas McCaffrey who had been chief press secretary during Mr Callaghan's years as prime minister.

'Tricky' tobacco firms are under fire

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

ALLEGATIONS were made to a parliamentary enquiry yesterday that the tobacco industry indulged in tricks to mislead the public over the health hazards of passive smoking.

Executives of Ash (Action on smoking and health) demanded legislation to protect non-smokers from the dangers of inhaling cigarette smoke in all public places and at work.

David Simpson, director of Ash, told the Commons environment committee: "The tobacco industry has a long history of misleading the public and making statements that are not scientifically true. It would like people to believe that nothing has been proven. It has set up bogus conferences that pretend to be an open scientific forum but which are stacked with tobacco industry scientists and where the proceedings are published before the conference takes place."

However the committee chair-

PASSIVE SMOKERS

man, Sir Hugh Rossi, scolded Mr Simpson for writing to committee MPs before the hearing attacking the tobacco industry's evidence. Keith Mans, Conservative MP for Wyre, suggested that Ash's attacks on the tobacco industry brought the organisation's credibility into question.

Dr Sharon Boyse, senior scientific adviser with the BAT Industries, told MPs that a number of scientists around the world did not believe smoking has been established as a cause of lung cancer and heart disease.

Of the 25 studies carried out on the effects of environmental tobacco smoke, commonly known as passive smoking, only five or six claimed a statistical link with cancer.

During Ash's evidence session, Professor Sir Richard Doll, a leading cancer specialist and re-

gious professor of medicine at Oxford University, said that research showed that non-smoking spouses whose partners smoked had an increased risk of contracting lung cancer. The health risks of working in an asbestos textile factory were about the same as contracting lung cancer from environmental tobacco smoke (passive smoking).

Sir Richard said that there were no health risks from inhaling most toxic materials below a certain threshold. "When you are dealing with cancer, unfortunately we have to assume there is no such thing as a threshold level. You will not eliminate the risk unless you eliminate the nicotine."

Dr Noel Olsen, director of public health with Hampstead health authority, said: "We do believe that we have reached a stage where the voluntary approach has gone as far as it can and we need legislative support. The

rights of the non-smoker to breathe clean air must exceed the rights of the smoker to pollute it."

Mr Simpson said that most people felt indignation at being exposed to a health hazard. By the next century, he said, smokers would be in a minority.

Ash said, in written evidence, that the only single group opposing tighter controls on smoking were the tobacco industry and its consultants. The organisation calculated that if each British smoker reduced his smoking by one cigarette a day, the loss in cigarette sales would total more than £1 million a day.

"The health risks to non-smokers of [passive smoking] provide added argument for the overall reduction of smoking in the community and non-smoking should be regarded as the norm in enclosed areas frequented by the public or employees, special provision being made for smokers, rather than vice-versa."

Interest rates 'must be cut soon'

By JOHN WINDER

ECONOMY

INTEREST rates should be cut soon, John Biffen told the Commons last night. He called for a growing volume of protest against present terms of British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism which were "wholly disadvantageous for this country".

Mr Biffen (North Shropshire, C), a former cabinet minister and chief secretary to the Treasury, used the motion setting the dates of the Christmas recess to sound the alarm about the deepening recession which, he said, must by now be evident throughout the economy, and which was made more worse by the fixed exchange rate that inhibited exchange-rate policy.

Whatever expectations had been aroused by the one percentage point cut in interest rates at the time of British entry to the ERM had not been fulfilled.

There was still talk about the recession being short and shallow, but he saw little anecdotal evidence to persuade him that the recession was of that character. In many areas of the economy there had already been recession for a considerable time, and that made nonsense of the proposition that it was to be a short experience.

Calling for a reduction in interest rate, he said that nobody looking at the general pattern of demand and of monetary control could suppose that we were in a lax monetary situation that could not admit of a further reduction.

"I have a feeling that the reluctance of the government to undertake a cut is an inhibition they feel on account of ERM membership."

If membership of the ERM had not been effected at an appropriate parity, there would be a perpetual disadvantage to British industry, just as the return to the gold standard at an unrealistic figure had thrown its shadow over the economy in the Twenties and Thirties.

Inflation difficulties in recent years had derived precisely from the fact that the government had tried to shadow the deutchmark a few years ago. He likened the ERM to Lubyanka prison, in order, he said to show that he was a broad European.

Managers blamed for Tube loss

MPs BLAMED poor housekeeping and forecasting errors yesterday for London Underground's losses of £52 million this year (Sheila Gunn writes).

In a report to be published next month on the increasing debts, the Commons transport committee criticised financial controls and over-optimistic predictions of income from fares and property sales. New safety measures also added to this year's costs.

The report comes after a hearing earlier this month when MPs accused London Underground executives of failing miserably to control costs. In new written evidence, the company admitted the gross deficit had been re-estimated at £93 million, bringing a net shortfall of £52 million.

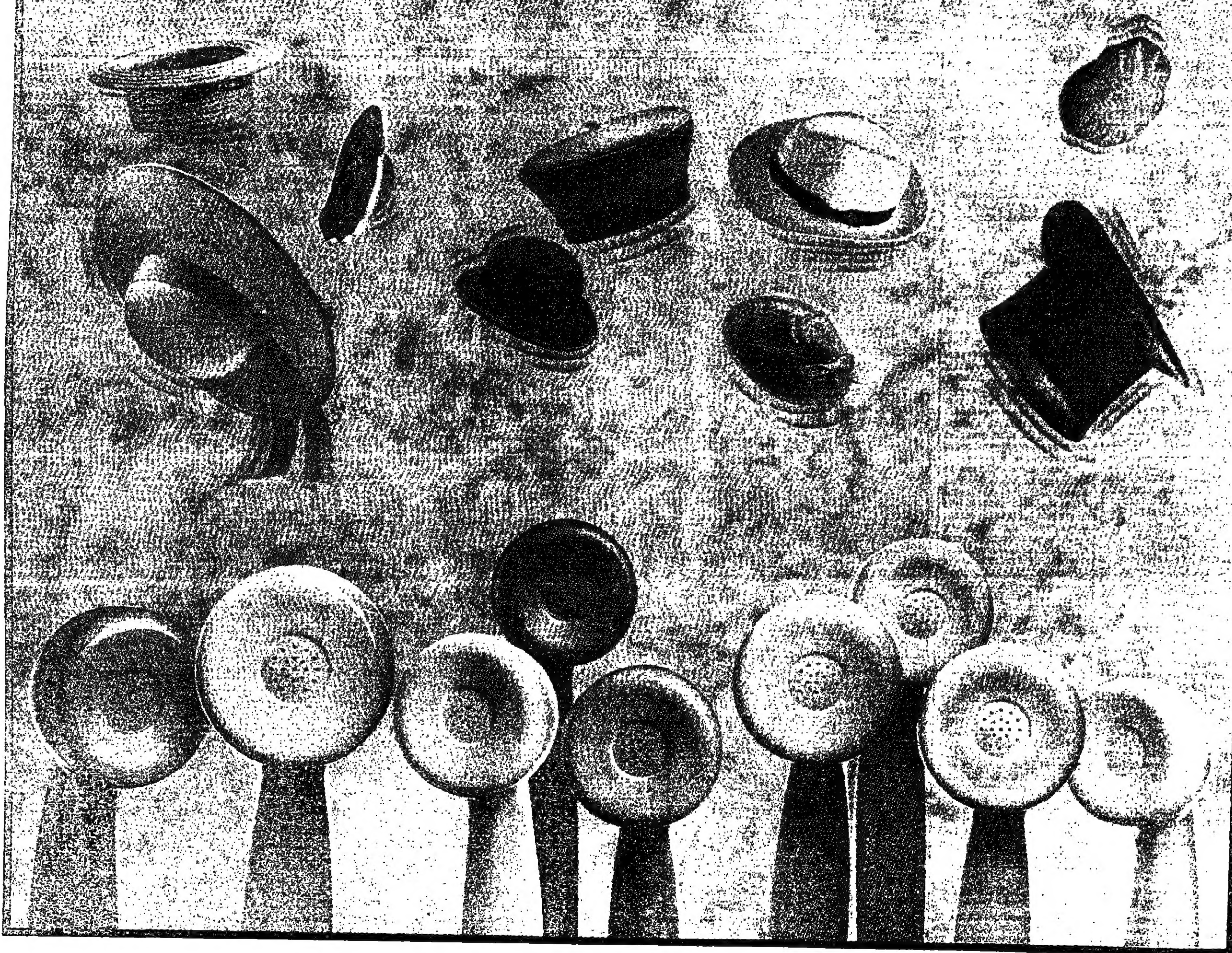
The report said: "The precise causes of the deficit remain obscure. There were financial setbacks some of which were foreseeable; a need to implement safety measures more quickly than expected; and poor housekeeping."

London Transport's forecast of a 9 per cent increase in income from passengers was described as optimistic guesswork.

Mr Wilfred Newton, the company chairman, told MPs that "financial systems and procedures were not all they should have been" and blamed inadequate communication between accounting and finance managers.

The Commons report concluded: "These appear to be understatements given the time it took for London Underground to realise that its financial position was unsound."

Mercury customers save £50 million on their phone bills every year. (No wonder they're happy.)



Since we started operating the first competitive telephone system in Britain 5 years ago, we've never looked back. Our digital network offers customers cost savings on both long distance calls in the UK and international calls. We also supply everything from paging services to data communications, public payphones to videoconferencing. With all these benefits, it's no surprise that we now handle 1 in 6 of the UK's transatlantic calls and nearly 4 million calls per day.

If you want to know more about Mercury call 0800 800 444 anytime.

LONG DISTANCE, YOU'RE MILES BETTER OFF ON MERCURY.

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED, A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY.



مكذاب من الأصل

As the prime minister crosses the Atlantic, The Times explains the ties linking London and Washington



Stars and plustripes: images of togetherness, from left, Ronald Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, Harold Wilson and Gerald Ford in 1975, Harold Macmillan with John F Kennedy in 1962, and President Roosevelt with Winston Churchill in 1943

America focuses on British leader

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JOHN Major has been given the ultimate accolade that the United States can confer on a visiting foreign leader: he has been invited to appear, within a few hours of his arrival here tonight, on all four national broadcast television shows.

There is considerable public interest in the new British prime minister, and not just because Americans want to judge for themselves whether he measures up to their beloved Margaret Thatcher.

They also want to reconcile the conflicting caricatures that appear in their newspapers. On one hand, their interest is titillated by widespread, and scarcely accurate, descriptions of him as the son of a trapeze artist and being a high school dropout. On the other, they read that he has all the

charisma of a provincial bank manager. A much more serious assessment of the man will take place tomorrow evening at Camp David, the presidential retreat, where George and Barbara Bush, supported by Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, and Henry Cato, the American ambassador in London, will play overnight hosts to John and Norma Major, who will be accompanied by Sir Antony Acland, the British ambassador, and Lady Acland.

The two leaders have weighty issues to discuss, and have set aside several hours for that purpose, but, primarily, this is, in the words of one official, "a put-up-your-feet and get-to-know-you session". They met briefly at the White House when Mr Major visited

Washington as foreign secretary in September 1989, and even more briefly at the Houston economic summit last July when Mr Major was chancellor, but they hardly know each other.

Personal chemistry plays a powerful role in international affairs, as Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan demonstrated. Officials here predict that, in spite of their contrasting backgrounds, with one raised in poverty in south London, the other privileged and Yale-educated, they may have more in common than the pragmatic Mr Bush ever did with the ideological Mrs Thatcher.

Tomorrow morning, Mr Major meets James Baker, the secretary of state, Vice-President Dan Quayle, and possibly Nicholas Brady, the

treasury secretary, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, before lunching with Thomas Foley, the House Speaker, and other senior congressmen on Capitol Hill. He then flies to Camp David for talks before dinner.

The three big issues on the American agenda are the Gulf conflict, the breakdown of the Uruguay round of Gatt talks to liberalise world trade, and how Nato will be affected by the drive towards a stronger and more unified European defence and security structure. The Americans are more concerned than they have let on that this could lead to a diminution of Nato.

The White House has been gratified by the British contribution to Operation Desert

Shield and there are no policy differences. Mr Bush will discuss the prospects of war and run through possible scenarios.

Gatt is likely to be the most contentious issue, with the administration infuriated by what it sees as European intransigence on reducing farm subsidies, the issue which led to the collapse of the global trade talks on December 7. Mr Major, who favours EC agricultural reform, will seek to rescue the talks by playing the role of conciliator. American officials signalled that Mr Bush would continue to demand subsidy reductions well beyond those offered by the European Community.

Mr Major may also find himself acting as a bridge between the US and the less Atlanticist European nations on Europe's future defence structure. The US supports the Franco-German idea of creating a much stronger European defence "pillar" so long as this does not threaten Nato, a view shared by Britain.

It would also favour an arrangement that enabled Europe to play a more prominent role in international conflicts such as the one in the Gulf.

Hard facts, page 10

Swings and roundabouts in a special relationship

By MARTIN FLETCHER

WHEN John Major succeeded Margaret Thatcher, Americans from President Bush down expressed certainty that the "special relationship" would continue unabated.

There is one important difference between Mr Major and Mrs Thatcher. She remembers the second world war. He does not. Whereas he is likely to take a primarily pragmatic view of the relationship, her convictions — and those of her predecessors — were coloured by a romanticism that dated back to 1940.

That was the year Franklin Delano Roosevelt, fighting US opinion firmly opposed to US intervention, came to Britain's aid, according to Winston Churchill's desperate request for 50 ageing US destroyers to replace those sunk by German submarines. He circumvented a hostile Congress by "trading" the ships for six British naval bases in the Caribbean. The following year the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the US had no choice but to enter the war on Britain's side, and the special relationship was cemented.

It has had its hiccup since, the most notorious being during the Suez crisis of 1956 when President Eisenhower

demanding that Britain and France withdraw from Egypt and humiliated both. More recently, but less shattering, the US in 1983 invaded Grenada, a former British colony, in spite of British opposition.

The special relationship was rarely stronger than when Mrs Thatcher and President Rea-

son were in power during the 1980s. The US gave Britain practical support during the Falklands war of 1982 and the British government supported, at least outwardly, Washington's decision to bomb Libya in 1986.

When President Bush ordered the invasion of Panama last year, Britain was almost alone in offering robust support.

The special relationship was never a partnership of equals, and when Mr Bush took office

in January 1989, his administration placed new emphasis on its relationship with Germany, the powerhouse of Europe, at the expense of Britain. The pendulum has once again swung back because of the Gulf crisis, during which Britain has contributed more troops than any western nation save the US.

The most tangible sign of the special relationship is Britain's nuclear deterrent, wholly American in design and technology and protected by Washington from inclusion in superpower arms talks.

Under Mr Major, the element gives him the time, Britain will play a more active role in Europe, and this will be encouraged by the Bush administration, which supports European integration. Four decades of fence-straddling may finally end.

In turning more to Brussels, however, London is unlikely to weaken its links with Washington, which may come to regard Britain as its best hope of ensuring US interests in the new Europe. The US fears a fortress Europe in which Nato could be eclipsed by a new European defence structure.

Testing time for two pragmatists

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major's pre-Christmas trip to Washington tonight for talks with George Bush is essentially a relaxed, get-to-know-you exercise, so that both leaders can chat together and sound each other out on important issues. It will give President Bush the chance to put the new prime minister on the list of world leaders he telephones regularly.

Officials on both sides expect them to get on well. Both are pragmatists, quiet in style and ready to tinkle detail. With Mr Major there will be none of that tension which underlay the outwardly friendly relationship between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush: as a new boy on the world scene Mr Major does not threaten to upstage the president as the West's senior statesman.

There will not be that special chemistry that bound together Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush had veered apart on German unification and the pace of European integration, when he called last December for "a continued, perhaps even intensified, effort of the Twelve to integrate". That appeared to be a signal that Britain would be taken seriously in the United States only if its twelve European partners were prepared to take it seriously.

But Mrs Thatcher's swift commitment of British troops to the Gulf, her rapid backing of the United States in Panama, and the British reminders to Europe about American concerns on defence spending assured Mr Bush that Britain and America continue to have

shared values as well as a common language.

Mr Major can be expected to be less sensitive about the Washington-Bonn axis. Mrs Thatcher never had good relations with Helmut Kohl. Her successor went out of his way at the Rome summit last weekend to establish a first-name relationship with the German chancellor.

Mr Major's biggest test in Washington will be the eleven pairs of eyes watching him from Europe. After his efforts to signal Britain's willingness to move towards a common EC goal, they will be anxious to see how far he seeks to take over the role of America's special representative in Europe, a role which, real or imagined, has always complicated Britain's relationship with EC partners.

The talks will be dominated by the Gulf, Gatt and European defence, although South Africa, the Middle East peace

conference and the future of President Gorbachev are likely to figure as well.

Mr Major is scheduled to visit British troops a week before the expiry of the United Nations January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. On the Gulf, he will want to assess for himself Mr Bush's readiness to go to war.

The attempt to set up direct talks between Washington and Baghdad, immediately after the UN resolution authorising the use of force if the deadline was not met, was a demonstration of Mr Bush's eagerness to be seen to go "the extra mile" for peace. This aim was specifically endorsed by Mr Major in his first official speech as prime minister. But America's allies had not been alerted in advance and some were suspicious that this represented the start of negotiations and of growing American doubts about the wisdom of using force.

Britain has been assured that America has no intention of backing off and that Congress would certainly sanction war after January 15, but Mr Major will want to make his own assessment.

The breakdown of the Gatt talks is certain to figure in discussions with President Bush. The prime minister has been criticised in some quarters for failing to play up the Gatt issue sufficiently at the European Council in Rome, but officials say that that was a deliberate tactic.

The name of the game in Rome was to avoid public confrontation, to underline the difference from the previous management. Mr Major

did raise the issue with some force in bilateral talks with Herr Kohl and President Mitterrand.

Mr Major may not say all that Mr Bush wants to hear. He told reporters in Rome that, while it was agreed that severe damage could be caused internationally if there was not a successful outcome to the Gatt round, "it was equally clear that it will not be necessary for all the concessions and changes to come from the community".

The meatiest discussion may well be on the future shape of European defence and security arrangements. While the Americans express enthusiasm on European unity and the development of "European pillar" within Nato, they are worried that such a development could see Europe taking decisions on defence questions and then presenting the US with a "take it or leave it" ultimatum.

Britain intends to make security co-operation on such issues as avoiding confrontation, arms reduction and verification an important theme of the EC inter-governmental conference on political union, while opposing a common defence policy.

In his key speech in Berlin last week, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, set out the guidelines on British thinking which Mr Major will develop with the president. He told a Berlin press conference: "European security without the United States simply does not make sense. If we were ever foolish enough to try it, we would soon realise what nonsense it was."



Major: eyes of the EC's leaders will be on him

Embassy 'busy guys' smooth way

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

UNDER an old joke in political circles there are three centres of power in Washington — the White House, Capitol Hill and the British embassy. The embassy is Britain's largest, one of the busiest in the capital, and issues the most sought-after invitations, especially when members of the royal family are in town.

John Major's first visit to Washington as prime minister has therefore not perturbed the embassy staff unduly. Already this year, under the cloak of the "special relationship", the embassy has handled 50 ministerial visits to the United States, including 35 to Washington, 26 royal trips, 11 parliamentary delegations and visits by 38 MPs. As one embassy official put it: "We're pretty busy guys."

The first stop for Mr

Major is the ambassador's splendid residence at the top of Embassy Row, a Lutyns building. With the help of a French chef and English butler, the ambassador, Sir Antony Acland, and his wife, Lady Jennifer, have presided for the past four years over some of the most prestigious gatherings in Washington.

Much to the envy of other diplomatic missions, the embassy's reputation for magnificent dinners, entertainments and charity events allows its senior diplomats to cultivate a range of important American officials and aspiring political leaders.

A garden party last summer for the Princess of Wales was one of the hottest tickets on the social calendar, while a dinner earlier this year for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and

Tom King, the defence secretary, was widely regarded as one of the most important gatherings at an embassy during the Bush administration. James Baker, the Secretary of State, Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, and Tom Foley, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, were among the guests.

Critics of the embassy's size have argued that the close relationships between American and British leaders — Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower and Harold Macmillan — have diminished the role of Britain's diplomats to messengers in an era of direct telephone diplomacy.

Mr Major is scheduled to meet few British diplomats during his stay. The em-

bassy does not even have a signed photograph of him beside those of past prime ministers and royalty.

Officials can seem defensive about the embassy's size. But Britain is the largest foreign investor in the United States apart from Japan. It has consulates in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, Cleveland, Miami, Dallas, Houston and Seattle. Still, even in a city of almost 150 diplomatic establishments, the British embassy is big, employing 334 people.

Most of these work in an office block overlooking the wooded grounds of the home of Dan Quayle, the vice-president, and a stone's throw from a statue of Winston Churchill, giving his victory sign to the four lanes of commuters en route to the city.

New York, London, Tokyo and now Smith's.



Start spreading the news about The Sinatra Collection at Smith's. 13 videos, spanning 20 years of his career, are available separately (£9.99), in a four box set of concert (£34.95), or as a complete set in a presentation box (£119.00). For the greatest fans of the world's greatest entertainer it's too marvellous for words.

There's more to discover at WH SMITH.

Britain fights EC move to impose huge fishing cuts

FROM MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was last night fighting to stave off cuts in its fish catch that Brussels wants to impose as part of EC-wide measures to protect dwindling stocks, particularly of cod and haddock in the North Sea.

David Curry, the junior fisheries minister, told a negotiating meeting that Britain was "prepared to move" on some of the European Commission's proposals in return for an increase in the British cod catch in the North Sea.

Officials arriving for the meeting had to pick their way through 15 tonnes of rotting herring and sardines dumped by about 100 angry French trawlermen.

The talks, also being attended by John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and Lord Strathclyde, the Scottish fisheries minister, were expected to continue into the early hours of today, with no certain prospect of agreement.

Mr Curry dismissed as "an old-style throw-money-at-it solution" a proposal by the Commission to pay fishermen to take their vessels out of service and reduce the size of the EC fleet, which is estimated to be 40 per cent too large for the amount of fish available.

Señor Manuel Marin, the European fisheries commissioner, told the ministers, who meet every December to fix catch quotas for the next year, that he wanted stiff measures to allow depleted stocks to recover. These include cuts as high as 61 per cent in some areas and a ban on fishing for cod and haddock in the North Sea and off

the west coast of Scotland for 10 consecutive days each month.

The 10-day ban would apply to all vessels that depended on cod and haddock for more than 40 per cent of their catch in the 18 months to June 30 of this year. Some 400 Scottish and 300 English vessels — about 60 per cent of the British North Sea fleet — would be affected.

British fishermen have been restricted to fishing on 92 days in the past year, a rule that has been widely ignored and difficult to enforce. Although the 10-day ban would apply to boats from all member states, British fishermen say it would force them to fish harder during the rest of the month and to stay out in unsafe weather.

Señor Marin also wants the mesh size of the nets used in the North Sea to be increased to safeguard juvenile cod and haddock.

The commission's proposals are based on advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, in Copenhagen, that the catch of white fish in the North Sea and west of Scotland should be cut by 30 per cent next year. A separate committee set up by the commission recently said that the mortality rate of cod, haddock, plaice and herring in the North Sea and of cod in the Baltic Sea is four times higher than it should be.

The most serious threat is in the North Sea where the weight of adult fish capable of laying eggs has fallen since 1982 from 168,000 tonnes to 78,000 tonnes of cod and from 285,000 tonnes to an estimated 81,000 tonnes of haddock.

British skippers say the proposed 120mm net mesh would reduce their catch of marketable fish to such an extent that it would be no longer worth their while putting to sea. The government agrees but is prepared to accept an increase from 90mm to 110mm, which is still more than the fishermen want.

As they stand, the commission's proposals would cut Britain's cod quota in the North Sea by 13 per cent from 46,180 tonnes this year to 40,210 tonnes in 1991 and its haddock quota by 14 per cent from 36,280 tonnes to 31,360 tonnes. Only two years ago, Britain had a cod quota of 71,000 tonnes and a haddock quota of 128,500 tonnes.

In the smaller, but high-value fishing grounds in the Irish Sea, British fishermen would face even steeper cuts of 13 per cent for sole, 37 per cent for plaice, 34 per cent for whiting and 61 per cent for cod.

The British government accepts the need for further reductions in the North Sea but considers that some of the proposed reductions are excessive.

Letters, page 11



Catch phrase: protesting French trawlermen amid the fish they dumped with a banner saying 'the young drowned in Brussels'

Europe's trade blocs clear path to unity

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community and seven Nordic and Alpine countries cleared the way yesterday for the creation of a 19-nation trading bloc of 380 million people, to take effect on January 1, 1993.

During talks here between the EC and ministers of the European Free Trade Association (Efta), a breakthrough was made on issues that had threatened to prevent a European Economic Area (EEA) being formed.

The EEA, extending the benefits of the community's single market to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, is seen here as a vital political and economic bridge between the EC and its main trading partners that could pave the way for most of them to join the community. Both sides aim to sign an agreement before next summer, allowing 18 months for ratification.

Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister and president of the European Council, said yesterday that the two sides had taken a decisive step forward in negotiations that had become bogged down in argument over power-sharing.

The community had refused to allow Efta a seat at any EC decision-making table, but was willing to hold prior discussions on issues affecting both sides. Efta was unwilling to drop its demands for many exceptions to EC law unless it was satisfied that arrangements for "decision-shaping" would give it enough say over community regulations by which it would be bound.

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the Swiss chief negotiator for Efta, said there was now broad agreement on structures to give each side autonomy in decision-making. He said there should be equal opportunities for experts from both Efta and the community to influence decisions relevant to the EEA. Important details had to be worked out in the next six months. The breakthrough may slow the

rush of Efta applications for full EC membership. Austria has already asked to join and Sweden recently announced it would do so. Finland and Norway are vigorously debating membership.

Brussels has long insisted that no new members could be considered before 1993, though several EC member states say this is too far off. Mr Delamuraz said it was up to each Efta country to decide whether to apply for EC membership. His priority was a good EEA treaty.

Yesterday's breakthrough, exactly a year after talks began, prevented the collapse of negotiations and came as a relief to both sides. Many here see Efta as a useful half-way house that could also be used by the new East European democracies that want to join the community.

In the new EEA, all Efta countries will be bound by most EC law, about 1,400 legal acts, excluding the common agricultural policy, which form a

common legal base for the free movement of goods, services, capital and people.

One of the thorniest issues has been competition policy, and Efta has committed itself to setting up an independent structure to apply competition rules, with powers and functions similar to those of the European Commission. Negotiators have to work out how the two bodies should co-operate.

Efta has also been worried that joint standards on the environment, health and safety might lead to a relaxation of the much higher standards that prevail in the Efta countries. Ministers yesterday announced that their negotiators would look for solutions as each case arose.

Fishing policy has also been tricky to negotiate, especially for Iceland whose economy is overwhelmingly dependent on fish.

Switzerland has balked at allowing free movement of labour, fearing it would be flooded with immigrants and property buyers.

common legal base for the free movement of goods, services, capital and people.

One of the thorniest issues has been competition policy, and Efta has committed itself to setting up an independent structure to apply competition rules, with powers and functions similar to those of the European Commission. Negotiators have to work out how the two bodies should co-operate.

Efta has also been worried that joint standards on the environment, health and safety might lead to a relaxation of the much higher standards that prevail in the Efta countries. Ministers yesterday announced that their negotiators would look for solutions as each case arose.

Fishing policy has also been tricky to negotiate, especially for Iceland whose economy is overwhelmingly dependent on fish.

Switzerland has balked at allowing free movement of labour, fearing it would be flooded with immigrants and property buyers.

Parcel blast at home of postman

Madrid — Police arrested a postman here after his wife was injured by a letter-bomb which he had failed to deliver to its addressee (Harry Debutius writes).

Police said that Miguel Rivas Garcia told them the package which exploded in his flat on Monday was one of at least two parcels which he took home instead of delivering. One, which looked like a book, blew up as it was being opened. The postman is in custody suspected of mail robbery, while police are trying to find both the addressee and the sender of the explosive device.

RAF case charge

Bonn — Susanne Becker, a former guerrilla of the far-left Red Army Faction, has been charged with the murder of a top German banker, Jürgen Ponto, in 1977, and trying to kill General Alexander Haig, then European commander of Nato. Frau Becker, aged 39, is one of eight former RAF members arrested in what was East Germany in June. (Reuter)

Sterilisation ruling

Auckland — A New Zealand high court judge has given permission for surgeons to sterilise a severely mentally handicapped teenager. The girl, known only as X in the precedent-setting court case, turned 15 on Wednesday. Local health authorities had refused to carry out the operation and her parents applied for consent. (AFP)

Bankers accused

Lusaka — Several employees of Zambia's central bank have been arrested on charges of embezzling 13 million kwacha (£160,000), the country's parliamentary speaker said. Fannyanga Mulikita was quoted as saying the theft at the Bank of Zambia was disclosed by a parliamentary committee of inquiry. He did not give details. (Reuter)

Drugs round-up

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysian police claim to have smashed four international drug syndicates in the northern state of Penang this month, making 39 arrests and seizing 36 lbs of heroin and 118 lbs of cannabis. Police chief Haniff Omar said the syndicates sold drugs both locally and overseas, especially in Singapore, Australia and Europe. (Reuter)

EC attack claim

Athens — The radical organisation "November 17" claimed the responsibility for a spectacular rocket attack on the European Community officers in Athens on Sunday in which two passers-by were injured. The group claimed that the EC had imposed a harsh austerity programme on Greece.

Brothel return

Reno, Nevada — Only a month after federal tax collectors auctioned his Nevada brothel, known as the Mustang Ranch, Joe Conforte, the former owner, threw open its doors again, as its manager. The Internal Revenue Service had seized the brothel against a tax claim and sold it. The buyer, a local lawyer, appointed Mr Conforte as manager. (Reuter)

Tirana democrats seek poll delay

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN BELGRADE

ALBANIA'S newly founded opposition party, the Democratic Party, yesterday appealed to the government to postpone elections, scheduled for February, until the summer.

Gramoz Pashko, a university professor, said that the delay was necessary to give the opposition a chance to contest the elections fairly.

President Alia planned elections for February 10 as part of his programme of tentative reform, but after violent disturbances last week and the legalisation of several opposition parties he ap-

pears convinced that, if the elections are to be credible, the opposition must be given time to organise itself.

The principal opposition party is made up largely of intellectuals drawn from the families of Albania's ruling elite. It seems unlikely that they will become truly democratic unless they break with the regime, which they have so far failed to do.

Dr Pashko yesterday reiterated his belief that some deal with the ruling communists must be reached to prevent a bloodbath in Albania. Speaking on the tele-

phone from Tirana, he said: "Believe me, I know my people. The danger of great violence is extremely close. We must do everything to avoid it."

The opposition party also called for the release of all political prisoners. The call came as 157 demonstrators arrested during last week's disturbances were put on trial. According to official sources, these demonstrators represent "the dark forces threatening our national integrity" — a communist term for political offenders.

Amnesty International and other human rights organisations estimate that there are as many as 48,000 political prisoners in Albania. Most of them are kept in concentration camps, where the conditions are primitive and torture far from unknown. But it will be difficult for the opposition party to secure the release of political "offenders" as long as the regime continues to brand Albania's young protesters as "terrorists and hoodlums".

However much Mr Alia is hoping that the relatively tame Democratic Party will damp down Albania's pent-up frustrations after decades of misrule, it remains to be seen whether the Albanian people will tolerate anything less than swift change.

In the aftermath of last week's riots, Albanian radio reported that 42 people were on trial in the coastal town of Durrës, 55 in the central industrial city of Elbasan and 60 in the northern town of Shkoder. The radio said they were accused of "threatening the lives and health of people, illegal conduct in public, assaults on representatives of state power and illegal gatherings".

'Embassy bomber' arrested

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

A JUNIOR official at the South African department of foreign affairs has been arrested in connection with a bomb attack at the American ambassador's residence in Pretoria in October. Police said he was one of three suspects detained under the internal security act.

The home-made bomb, fastened to a gate at the rear of the compound, caused considerable damage but no casualties. The adjacent residence of the British ambassador, Sir Robin Renwick, was not damaged during the attack.

A local news magazine identified the official as P.J. Kruger, who had been working in the foreign aid section since August, and said he had right-wing connections. A department spokesman said: "The law must take its course. We have no further comment."

R. F. "Pik" Botha, the minister of foreign affairs, condemned the attack at the time and asked police to step up security at foreign missions.

An Afrikaner paramilitary organisation recently claimed responsibility for a similar attack on the British embassy last February when shots were fired through windows. Slogans were also daubed on walls. The organisation accused Britain of meddling in South African affairs by pressing for the release of Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress.

Gain for Bogotá in drugs war

FROM ANNA ARAMA IN BOGOTÁ

THE surrender of leading drug trafficker Fabio Ochoa, a member of the Medellín drug cartel wanted for extradition to the United States, gave President Gaviria the first positive results of a new policy that is expected to end violent confrontations with Colombian drug lords.

After only four months in office, Dr Gaviria has been able to abandon a policy based on massive police actions and extraditions to the United States favoured by his predecessor, Virgilio Barco Vargas, and approved by the United States.

Carefully avoiding the wrath of Washington, Dr Gaviria shifted gears from the moment he took office in early August and began redefining the military offensive against the cartel, focusing instead on a legal and political battle. In

early September he offered Colombian criminals the option to surrender, confess all, give up property gained illegally and inform on crime partners. In return, the government would give lower sentences and not extradite them to the United States.

Lawyers working for the Medellín cartel drafted a series of counter-proposals and took hostages to force the government to forge ahead with new offers.

Although Dr Gaviria has said he is not being pressured by the traffickers holding hostages, the government and the Medellín cartel have continued communication to describe as negotiations.

On Monday Dr Gaviria issued a new decree that extended the points in the September proposal. The edict explicitly renounced

extradition when a trafficker surrendered and confessed. Dr Gaviria expects that the surrender of leading traffickers would eclipse any opposition to his new policy in Colombia and in the United States. Señor Ochoa's surrender is the cartel's test case of the policy.

Señor Ochoa, aged 33, is the youngest brother of the Ochoa clan, who with Pablo Escobar are the chiefs of the Medellín cartel. All are wanted for extradition to the United States.

Señor Ochoa is named in two federal court indictments in the United States and is implicated in the killing of police informant Barry Seal, who was murdered in 1986. Colombian courts will ask the United States to submit information on all pending cases against Señor Ochoa. The Colombian courts will then have one year to decide on his fate.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Exit Batman and the Godfather, closely pursued by Hamlet

With the cost of making movies approaching that of building nuclear submarines, huge stakes now ride on being able to lead the pack to the next hit genre. Lately, the moguls of Hollywood and New York have been scrambling to climb on bandwagons that seem to pass ever more rapidly.

This year we first had the duelling lambada films, the attempt to exploit the pseudo-Brazilian dance craze. *Dick Tracy* and the Ninja Turtles led the comic-strip follow-up to *Batman* and then came the indistinguishable techno-busters of the summer, known generically as Lethal Recall, or RoboHard. A clutch of gangster films — launched by the success of *The Untouchables* two years ago — have been fighting it out ahead of the release next week of the long-awaited, poorly reviewed *Godfather III*.

A whole slew of soft romantic tales are following the success of



Pretty Woman and *Ghost*. But all that is now soon-to-be ancient history. Scriptwriters are now busy concocting the genre that will pull in the big money in 1991 and 1992 — historical drama. Clues came last summer when the studios rushed to beat each other to the title of Robin Hood, a hero who has brought the industry little luck ever since Errol Flynn last buckled his swash. At one stage half a dozen studios were heading for Sherwood Forest, but Warner Brothers

shot the truest arrow, signing Kevin Costner and filming *The Prince of Thieves* in Britain.

They are now closely watching reaction to a medieval tale which opened this week: *Hamlet* by Franco Zeffirelli. The money men hope the vision of Mel Gibson, he of *Mad Max* and *Lethal Weapon*, in tights will overcome the notorious Shakespeare factor, particularly in translation for the Far East market. If it works, anything could happen — Schwarzenegger as Macbeth or Stallone as Lear.

Next in line, heralded by an outburst of lawsuits, comes the *Columbus* craze. This began when Christopher Columbus Productions, a Netherlands-based company, hired the producers of *Superman* and went to register five possible titles, starting with the obvious *Christopher Columbus* and running through *Christopher Columbus — The Movie* all the way to *Chris-*

topher Columbus — the Motion Picture.

However, they did not manage to corner the market destined to explode with the quincentenary in 1992 of the admiral's landing in the New World. To the fury of the Dutch firm, Ridley Scott, the British director, has started work on another *Christopher Columbus*. The first company has sued the second for plagiarism, claiming that Scott purloined his ideas and sources from their project. There may be some poetic justice in this, since Columbus is now held guilty by American feminists, racial campaigners and the academic world for inflicting every human corruption on the Americas, including greed and the religion of litigation.

The lawyers have once again taken the stage in the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*. Only three months after settling a bitter quarrel with

American Actors' Equity over his decision to bring Jonathan Pryce from the London to the New York version, Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, has run afoul of the union over the female lead.

Mr Mackintosh now wants to bring Lea Salonga, the Filipina actress who stars in London, to play her role as the Vietnamese prostitute in New York when the show opens in April.

Under Equity rules, an actor may only be imported if he or she enjoys the status of an international star or has ability which cannot be found locally. The Alien Committee of Equity has rejected Miss Salonga on both counts.

Last summer the committee objected to Mr Pryce on the grounds that, though a star, he was white and therefore not of the right race to play a Eurasian. Mr Mackintosh has told the union that he had seen 1,200

Asian actresses in auditions around the United States but none had the ability of Miss Salonga, aged 19. He is also arguing that the acclaim she has won in London qualifies her as a genuine star.

While Equity and Mr Mackintosh have been trying to keep down the temperature, pending an independent arbitrator's decision, actors from the Asian community are seething over what they see as the high-handed attitude of the British producer.

The summer dispute spawned hearings by the New York City Commission on Human Rights on ways of assuring roles for racial minorities. These ended only last week.

With rehearsals about to start, any further disruption would have a heavy financial impact for the production, which has cost \$10 million (£5 million) to stage. \$30 million worth of tickets have been sold.

كندا من الأصل

Crime: not just a family affair

Roger Graef

Christmas came early to the Home Office this year. Ministers had the satisfaction of seeing one of their political messages striking home. Literally. When asked "Who is responsible for reducing crime?", 53 per cent of the public named parents and the family, only 23 per cent said the police, and only 14 per cent the government. Coming this week when the quarterly crime figures showed yet another rise in car thefts and other "avoidable crime", this seems to suggest that the government's message that reducing crime is everybody's business is getting through.

The figures, however, are a poor indication of the real state of affairs. The police recorded four million crimes last year. The British Crime Survey estimates that a further eight million were committed against individuals and households but not reported. This omits company crime, a huge uncharted area, and so-called "victimless" crimes such as drugs and prostitution, which are recorded only by arrests.

This means that the criminal justice system deals with only a tiny proportion of crimes and criminals, and is virtually useless as a deterrent. But it also means we have lived more or less peacefully with a far larger number of crimes than we realised.

It is time we kicked the habit of whipping ourselves into a lather of anxiety every time the crime figures appear. They do not tell us anything useful. Clear-ups, for example, refer to arrests, not convictions, and therefore are no measure of police efficiency in keeping criminals off the streets.

The media dwell on crimes of violence, which comprise only 6 per cent of the total of recorded crime. Indeed we may well be reading the figures upside down: in certain categories the rise in reported crime reflects greater confidence in the police, while the fall in others could mean that victims despair of the police taking any action.

Politicians want "the family" to prevent crime and replace the destructive anarchy of the welfare state. But their model of the family is drawn from their own experience, rather than the bleak reality known to the more serious young offenders. They may have no family life, or it may be a far cry from the happy hearth-side scenes most of us will enjoy next week. Most young offenders come from broken homes, poor housing, with one or both parents among the long-term unemployed. They have the highest incidence of domestic violence, alcoholism and child abuse. Many teenage offenders already have children of their own.

The government also seems unaware of the impact of its social policies on the families who "shirk their duties". Standing on your own two feet takes on a different meaning if you are queuing for a

non-existent job or Social Fund loans that are denied to people too poor to repay them - precisely those who need them most.

To be fair, the Criminal Justice Bill reflects growing Home Office awareness that things must change. John Patten, the Home Office minister, now speaks of "preventing criminals" rather than crime. The bill's emphasis on punishment in the community is a sincere attempt to keep non-violent offenders out of prison. Its multi-system is geared to ability to pay. Combined with the Woolf Report on prisons, the report offers the new Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, the chance to change the lives of some of the losers in our market society. (Many young offenders are devoted free marketers: they sell anything that moves. As Shaw says in *Major Barbara*, their crime was not stealing but getting caught.)

But the bill could raise the prison population through longer sentences for serious offences. To persuade sceptical judges to use "punishment in the community" increasingly needs more than rhetoric: it needs cash to find and train those people in "the community" who are handed this awkward set of delinquent young offenders.

"Partnership with the private sector" hides the uncomfortable truth that most employers are unwilling to give ex-offenders a chance. Recession means fewer jobs, with more applicants. What chance, then, have poorly trained young ex-offenders? Who in "the community" will care for them?

The bill imposes a far greater burden on probation officers and voluntary sector bodies working on a shoestring that try to help ex-offenders to go straight. Yet they have been crippled by the cuts in local authority funding. As fewer go to prison, the savings should go not back to the Treasury, but to fund the probation service and groups such as Nacro, the Society for Voluntary Associates, New Bridge, Apex, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which act *in loco parentis* and offer a way back to normal life.

I learned of Mrs Thatcher's resignation at a day centre for young offenders. They smiled but were unconcerned about the succession: as they saw it, no matter who won, they would lose. Claims for a classless Britain and opportunities for all are admirable, but they ring hollow for those with no jobs, no skills, and no prospects.

If John Major and Kenneth Baker put their money where their mouths are, then Britain's poor and alienated young will have something to cheer about. If not, their rhetoric will only make young offenders feel more cut off from the rest of us.

Roger Graef is preparing a book and television series on juvenile crime.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

The message "Your invitation to win a Cellar-master's cottage" was printed in capital letters on an entry form attached to the neck of the bottle of Remy Martin VSOP brandy sent to me by a well-wisher. There was a picture of a part of the cottage: on two floors, shuttered windows, front lawn, trees at the side and rear, mountains in the background. Makes you want to be a cellar-master when you grow up.

The illustration shows is not the actual cottage," it states in the competition rules. I wonder why. I wonder what they said to the artist when they commissioned him: "Do a pic of something that is not an actual cellar-master's cottage?" Could it be that they are giving away genuine cellar-master's cottages that is tied to a factory, noisy, smelly, poky? Surely not.

To win this "cottage of your dreams" - I quote from the entry form - "you have to emulate the cellar-master's art of blending cognacs using his sense of sight, smell, taste and touch... The cellar-master will pick up a distinct aroma at each of three different stages; you are invited to try to match the aromas which the cellar-master identifies at each stage." There is a picture of a man sniffing at a sherry glass containing something. The glass and the nose are about the same size. Perhaps this, too, is not the actual cellar-master, nor his glass, nor his nose.

Question 1: Pour the cognac and hold the glass 10 centimetres (four inches) from your nose. Predominantly would he identify PETALS, VANILLA, PORT, APRICOT, OAK or SPICE?

It had to be oak or vanilla; I know about these things. I took a glass similar to that depicted, poured in some Remy, held it at the right distance and sniffed: alcohol. Alcohol is not an option; sniffed again, went down the list of options: absolutely, definitely, not petals. Sniffed some more; nor spice. Port is difficult. What do they mean by port? The French don't drink vintage port, go for cheap and cheerful ruby and tawny ports that smell like Dubonnet. At six inches from the level of the liquor there is no appreciable

smell that is port-like but I do get a tinge of apricot. I would have expected to be torn between oak and vanilla; add apricot, delete the other three. Question 2: Rotate the glass several times and hold it five centimetres (two inches) from your nose: FRUIT, OAK, ALMONDS, SPICE, VANILLA or FLOWERS? I sniff and get a distinct whiff of almonds; also flowers. Surely this time it should have been oak and vanilla like it says in the book. I sniff some more. Not vanilla, not fruit, don't think port. Keep three, discard three.

Question 3: Wait a few seconds, put nose in glass: ALMOND, FRUIT, VANILLA, PORT, SPICE, FLOWERS? I get a very complex smell - in taste-speak complex equals spice; very alcoholic, which could be port, certainly not flowers nor fruit nor vanilla, possibly almonds.

Entries will be judged by the panel (who panel?) and the first correct entry drawn was the cottage: no timeshare, one winner. We have until New Year's Eve, and to conform with UK competition legislation one does not have to purchase a bottle to take part. You may write to the administrators in Henley-on-Thames for the 216 entry forms that would enable you to do the full six by six by six permutation, though I doubt they would send them.

Alternatively, you can buy 216 bottles of Remy VSOP for £100, wait until the March budget when Remy goes up as brandy duty rises in our truly classless society, sell the stuff and be in line for a second home: north of the classy Dordogne, east of the pleasant beaches of La Rochelle, only four hours' drive from Paris and within two hours of Bordeaux airport.

My advice would be to perm the selected three from each, and for 27 bottles that you can give away or sell you have an almost equally good chance of victory. I am watching the panel; if the answer to one is petals - a predominant smell of petals from six inches - I shall have something to say to them, provided we get to find out who they are. Regrettably, the artist did not sketch a picture, not even of people not on the actual panel.

Peter Stothard, US editor, sets the agenda for the Bush-Major talks this weekend

Hard facts for the special relation

A little over a year ago, when John Major sat down for the first time with George Bush to survey the international landscape, the sight was almost wholly pleasurable. Communism was collapsing with virtually no loss of blood. The president was basking in esteem, and for the newly appointed British foreign secretary, it seemed there could be "no better time to be involved in foreign policy".

After his talks in the Oval Office and his participation in the cosy Bush ritual of refusing press questions at photo-opportunities, Mr Major felt confident enough to flaunt his inexperience. "It has enabled me to come to foreign affairs with a wholly fresh eye," he said, "and what has impressed me most can be summed up in three words: excitement, movement, opportunity."

Some observers thought Mr Major's wide-eyed optimism charming, others considered it close to jejune. But the scene at the White House last September starred two men who, frankly, could not believe their luck. The pictures next day were almost a caricature of the special relationship.

Their talks in Washington this

weekend may not be such fun. After four months pursuing Saddam Hussein, Mr Bush is a grimmer man. Even in a culture that lauds working far into the night, his haggard looks have drawn attention. As one only averagely workaholic aide put it this week, the president looks as though he has just spent three months in a human shield. Certainly, the returning hostages look in far better shape.

Mr Major will be made starkly aware at his meeting of the likelihood of war. It is one thing to be told about it by diplomats, foreign affairs advisers and generals. It is quite another to discuss details of operations and casualties with the man who within a month may set the guns rolling.

The American administration is on a war footing palpable to everyone who comes close to its heart. Operational secrecy is at a premium. The days of battle-plans being blazoned over the news magazines are over. With briefings even to allied ambassadors restricted to only the most general military topics, the visit of the prime minister is a serious chance to discuss critical issues.

There will not yet be war-plans and coloured maps on the Camp David tables. The president has proved to be a better delegator than the Pentagon has feared, and so far he does not appear to be breathing down the necks of his generals. Nevertheless, a number of awkward security problems may be raised. Both Britain and America are alarmed, for example, at the terrorist threat that Iraq could pose to civil aircraft as the UN deadline nears. Officials of the two countries have held meetings to discuss counter-measures.

The US has become increasingly irritated by what are seen as excessive German proposals for protecting its airlines in the middle of January with highly visible military force. Bush wants advance warning of American action in the Gulf in order to protect its flights further, a request that Britain and America resent but must treat with respect.

Mr Bush may also want to discuss the means of responding to Saddam Hussein's biological weapons - an issue in which, according to defence department sources, he has taken a special interest. The coalition has inadequate supplies of serum against anthrax, which is said to be the

gravest threat posed by Iraq. Following problems at the State University of Michigan, where US serum production is centred, Britain has the biggest stocks, and there is a sensitive question of how they should be deployed and to whom.

Details like these, on top of an overall discussion of the stalled diplomatic moves and regional reconstruction necessary when Saddam has been removed from Kuwait, will not make for an agenda of good cheer. Possibly, as both sides accept, the British forces in the Gulf may have to be increased further. It is for Mr Major to map the limits of what commitment is acceptable to British public opinion, and to brief the president accordingly.

The gear-wheels of the transatlantic relationship are, if anything, turning more smoothly than they did a year ago. Not only is the British Gulf force a visible sign of the closeness between the two countries, but the spat over anti-terrorism precautions is just a tiny symptom of American disenchantment with Chancellor Kohl, who was the State Department's darling earlier this year. His re-election was a Bush foreign policy

aim, but his electoral success shows no sign yet of being translated into a return of favours.

Germany's failure to avert a collapse of the Gatt talks in Brussels on free trade is becoming a bigger irritant by the day. Mrs Thatcher's warnings about the dangers of a protectionist and bureaucratic Europe seem all the more prophetic, and whether he likes it or not, Mr Major is seen in Washington as her natural heir. More important to the pragmatic Bush administration, he is seen as someone who can deliver the goods from Brussels in a way that she, increasingly, could not.

Mr Major may not provide quite the tonic that Mr Bush could have used right now from Mrs Thatcher. He lacks the experience, the skill with words and the ability to inspire confidence from a long-held position of power. But some of the president's advisers think that the quieter the weekend, the better it will be. If Mr Major can enliven the gloom with a shaft of humour, that will be a new development on a British prime ministerial visit - and a welcome surprise before what looks like being a rather black Christmas in Washington.

Give us a chance to match this mud-slinger's charter

Last week, a substantial number of people connected with West Wiltshire council were arrested; they included members and former members of its staff, many of whom held, or have held, leading positions in the council. The names of some were revealed, but no details of any charges. Those are the bare facts; no doubt if some or all of those arrested are tried, we shall learn more.

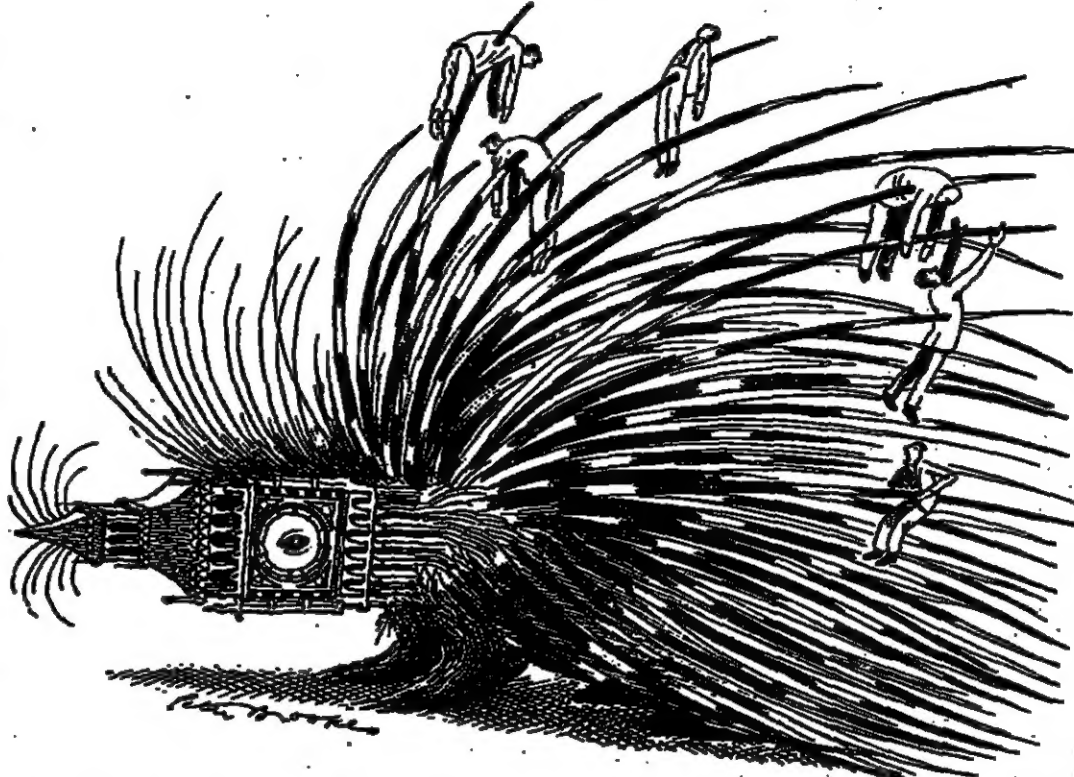
Now what would you say if I announced on this page that they were all guilty? Of course I could not do so; both the editor of *The Times* and I would be held in contempt of court and probably imprisoned. But ignore that and suppose I had done such a thing. What would you think of me?

You would think very little of me, and I would find it hard to disagree. Yet I tell you that what I have described has just come to pass, in a form almost exactly parallel to the macabre scenario I invented, and no judge will - no judge can - fall upon those who have flouted one of the most precious and vital of all our laws.

Who has done this, and how can the courts fail to take appropriate action? Where is there so remarkable an immunity that it entirely escapes any possible retribution? The answer, of course, is the immunity to be found in Parliament, where it goes by the name of parliamentary privilege, and in all my days I have never seen the like of the use just made of it.

A few days after - after, note, not before - the Wiltshire arrests, two Labour MPs Stuart Randall (Hull West) and David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside), put down what is called an early day motion. In it, they declared that six Conservative members of West Wiltshire council, whom they named, had corruptly acted in concert to subvert council procedures for their own corrupt gain in land deals and computer software operations, and that they used certain council work as a mechanism to make corrupt decisions.

Plainly that I do not know, and obviously cannot know, whether any or all of the allegations made by Randall and Blunkett are wholly true, wholly false, anything in between. Their denunciations did not include any of the people arrested; parliamentary privilege does protect even prej-



Bernard Levin puts forward a quid pro quo that would make MPs wary of invoking parliamentary privilege

dicial comment on criminal proceedings, but such comment is normally ruled out of order at once, and even that hapless, helpless, hopeless Speaker would not permit an MP to denounce as a criminal a person who is on bail.

But it is different for men and women who - and this applies to all the six councillors - have not been prosecuted or indeed even suspended from their positions.

Because any MP can safely accuse any individual of the most flagitious behaviour, provided no charges are pending, such individuals have no legal or parliamentary redress. Randall and Blunkett, therefore, were able to make these serious allegations in the full knowledge that there could be no retribution. If you think of this tale as a tiger-hunt, the tiger is tethered by privilege, and can be shot in perfect safety. The use of the early day motion by the two Grand Inquisitors is significant; such a parliamentary device is not

seriously expected (even by those who put it down) to be debated; it is a way of making a public statement, and indeed could be thought of as an alternative to writing to a newspaper.

But that choice, of course, was not open to them. If, outside the House of Commons, they had published their accusations against the six councillors (who, I remind you, have not been arrested), they could have faced the laws of libel or slander. By the use of their privilege they were able to avoid venturing into an arena where accuser and accused are on more even terms.

The use of parliamentary privilege to make accusations that would be impossible "outside", has grown, is growing, and ought to be diminished; Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, MP, must hold the record of such in-house denunciations. Yet I am struck at the ready and widespread acquiescence in the practice in general, on

all sides; even when a particularly sweeping use of the privilege custom is criticised, nobody seems disposed to attack the entire system. Well, I am so disposed, and I shall now do a bit of vigorous disposing. (I say, wouldn't it be funny if they hauled me up to the bar of the House for infringing their privilege?)

Why, exactly, are MPs granted this extraordinary licence - a licence to denounce anyone (other than, of course, other members of the House) without being obliged to offer even the most vague and sketchy evidence, or indeed to say why they are defaming their victim? The reply always takes the form of a suspiciously pompous claim that they must be entirely untrammelled in the pursuit of this claim, it can be tested, and I have spent many years in the testing; early in my career I used to be a parliamentary reporter, and I there conceived a dislike of the

custom that has led me, ever since, to watch out for such instances and examine them.

With this scrutiny, going back many years, I can say with confidence that I have never come across a defamatory statement made by an MP in the House, purporting to reveal some impropriety, dishonesty, crime or evil, that could not have been pursued, at least as expeditiously, by other, readily found, channels, such as - obviously - the police.

Take the Randall-Blunkett action itself. I do not, I repeat, know whether any of the six councillors are guilty of any wrong-doing. Randall and Blunkett may have, or think they have, evidence that they are. But, like any citizen, an MP has the right and duty to report to the appropriate quarter behaviour that might be criminal. Why did not Randall and Blunkett simply and quietly give what information they had to the police? It is true that if they had done so, their names would probably not have been attached to the story and published in *The Guardian*, along with the names of the councillors; but that is surely a small price to pay for ensuring that justice would ultimately be done untrammelled by prior prejudice.

It is open to MPs to deny my claim that this privilege is unnecessary and should be ended; but then they will be obliged to say why the specific instance of wrong they cite (and I shall certainly not accept generalities) could not have been dealt with outside the House. It is, I think you will agree, an extraordinary concession for any MP to have the right to defame any citizen while sheltering behind this archaic and often shockingly abused privilege.

But perhaps there is a compromise. At present, an MP speaking in the House can with impunity defame anyone outside it. How about an Act of Parliament by the terms of which we would have the privilege of saying anything we like about anything MPs say in the House, with the MPs forbidden to take libel or slander actions against us? What do you say, Hon. Members? Apart, of course, that I am a forgetful, a confidence trickster, an oppressor of widows and children, a pornographer and a horse-thief.

Thatcher's new summit?

Now that she is renting a top-floor flat in Belgrave, Mrs Thatcher may soon be leading her name to another exclusive address, a presently unnamed mountain on South Georgia, the remote island in the south Atlantic. Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society have asked the Foreign Office for permission to name it Thatcher Peak.

"It's a subsidiary summit, 9,500 feet high, a mile and a half north-west of Mount Paget, the highest point on the island," says Tom Stacey, novelist and fellow of the Society. He noted the mount when he and scientists on a Royal Geographical Society ship stopped at South Georgia at the time of Mrs Thatcher's resignation. "Our hearts were moved when we heard she was going. We felt that some tribute would be appropriate."

A site on South Georgia would be particularly so because it was there that British forces were assembled for the assault on the Falklands. The Falklands itself can be ruled out, says Stacey, because "every last rock there has already been named".

Stacey sent his suggestion to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, in a faxed message jointly signed by Major Peter Krassinski, commander of the Grenadier garrison on the island. The FO said in reply that it was being submitted to the appropriate authorities.

It is now up to the quinquily titled Antarctic Place-Names Committee, chaired by the explorer Sir Vivian Fuchs, to make a

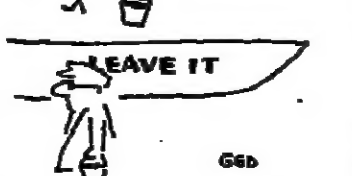
decision. The Foreign Office said yesterday that "all sorts of considerations" had to be taken into account.

If Mrs Thatcher is so honoured, she may find the name of a nearby landmark particularly poignant. The tip of the island is called Cape Disappointment.

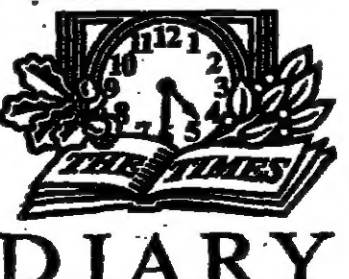
Barely aloft

Barnet Football Club continues happily to sport the name of Roger Levitt on its shirts (Diary, December 18), but Oriol College, Oxford, prefers to keep rather quieter about its association with the City financier currently on £500,000 bail on theft charges.

Earlier this year Levitt gave £20,000 to the Oriol club, expecting a boat to be named in his honour, and was made an honorary fellow. "We are distressed by what has happened," says a college spokesman. "At this stage we have not met to discuss with the governors what we will do with Mr Levitt's money or whether we will name a boat after him. The whole future of the



his honour, and was made an honorary fellow. "We are distressed by what has happened," says a college spokesman. "At this stage we have not met to discuss with the governors what we will do with Mr Levitt's money or whether we will name a boat after him. The whole future of the



DIARY

Liaison with Mr Levitt is a matter for discussion.

Meanwhile, the college continues to emblazon the logo of another sponsor, KPMG, across its rows' trackuits. All rather embarrassing, really, for KPMG are the financial administrators now liquidating Levitt's assets. The prospect of Oriol carmen sporting the liquidator's name on their shirts as they row a boat named after Levitt is disheartening for the college's boating fraternity. Such a combination, they fear, would almost certainly sink.

Card sharp

Although the Diary reported yesterday that disgruntled members of the Conservative national union were bemoaning the lack of their customary Christmas cards from the prime minister, Downing Street has over the past two days sent out more than a thousand official greetings cards bearing John Major's signature. Unlike the cards of recent years - which usually carried a regal portrait of his predecessor - the new prime minister's card features an original oil painting by

artist Anne Mackintosh, of the door of 10 Downing Street flanked by a Christmas tree.

So how did the modest Major manage to commission a card so quickly? He didn't. The design was selected and approved by Mrs Thatcher last May, when she was confident that she and Denis would still be licking the envelopes in Number 10. "There wasn't enough time for Mr Major to organise his own card, so he went ahead with Mrs Thatcher's," says a Downing Street spokeswoman. Luckily, there is no human in sight.

● Dame Judi Dench will again be using her celebrated Irish accent - put to good use in Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* - when she stars in the Young Vic production of O'Casey's *The Plough* and the Stars in May. Between practising her brogue, she is also practising walking, as her broken right ankle mends. "I still get a twinge," she says. "If I stand too long at a party and want to sit down I just lift my leg and cough. It usually works."

Memo to self

A parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Energy, Tony Baldry wrote to David Heathcoat-Amory, his opposite number at Environment, seeking information about pollution controls contained in the Environment Protection Bill. But by the time Heathcoat-Amory's civil servants had drafted a reply, John Major had reshuffled his ministers, swapping the two. One of the first letters to be presented for Baldry's signature, therefore, was the reply to his own query. "I found I was actually writing a

letter to myself," he says. Baldry short-circuited the system and sent the information directly to the manager of a Bradford factory worried about the proposed changes in pollution control.

Second string

Paul Tortelier, who died earlier this week, made one of his last appearances in Britain in April when he played a composition of his own at a memorial service for the broadcaster Josephine Whitehorn at All Souls, Langham Place. They met by chance in Regent's Park in the 1970s. Recognising him as a famous cellist, Whitehorn excitedly bounded up and said: "I think you must be Señor Pablo Casals." "Actually I'm Tortelier," was the reply. Despite the mistake, an enduring friendship blossomed.

Lunching out

The Sultan of Brunei's £100 million refurbishment of the Dorchester Hotel has failed to impress one of the hotel's most loyal erstwhile customers, Christina Foyle. For nearly 50 years, the doyenne of bookshop owners used the Dorchester for her celebrated literary lunches. But when the Dorchester closed two years ago for its comprehensive overhaul, she moved the lunches further up Park Lane to Lord Fortes's flagship, the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Although the Dorchester is open for business again, Miss Foyle is in no hurry to move. "We were happy there, but the food at the Grosvenor House is very good, and people like it. I think we shall stay where we are."

YOU from t his resu m tour relief of her was or Gov living safari tour. lifted theref confit the cc But fraugh who, ignon lie as with terda ble Victo Go disap be ps

BRIDLING

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR ROSS,
Worton Mill, Great Chart,
Ashford, Kent.
December 14.

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Preparing for the worst

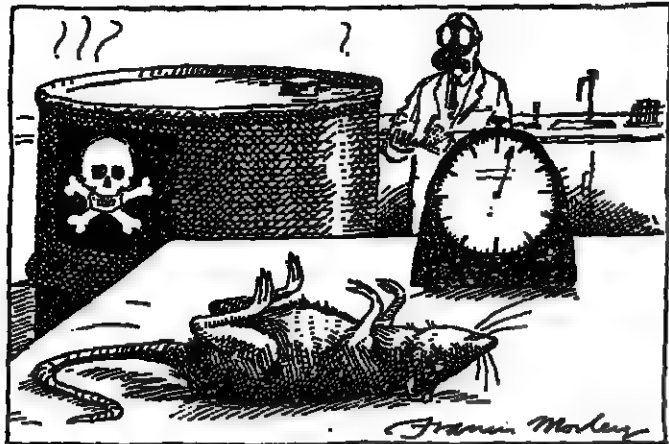
The defence ministry has been telephoning reserve and Territorial Army doctors and nurses to ask if they would consider going to the Gulf, 25 per cent of those approached have expressed a willingness to serve there, provided arrangements can be made to cover their existing work. More volunteers are still needed; it is hoped to send 1,500 additional medical personnel. Successful candidates will probably be under 45, of either sex, from any speciality. At this stage the campaign is almost as laid-back as the one used in 1956 to recruit tank troop leaders for Suez. Then, the cavalry decided against anything as proletarian as a "call-up"; instead a languid

officer from the War Office telephoned his acquaintances to explain that as Scotland and the grouse moors would temporarily lose their fashionable appeal, he was organising an autumnal party to visit the Middle East. He got all the volunteers he needed. If war breaks out it will be an armoured battle, very different from Suez; inevitably, casualties with burns from destroyed tanks will be heavy. The Royal Army Medical Corps is skilled at providing immediate treatment for burns, before the casualty can be speedily evacuated to a specialised burns unit, but experience with casualties of gas warfare is now virtually non-existent in the British army, although one former SAS medi-

cal officer did organise private London hospital treatment for some of the victims of Iraqi gas attacks in the Iraq/Iran war.

Nerve gas, which causes rapid paralysis by interrupting the transmission of nerve impulses, has introduced a new level of horror to gas warfare. When one of the first captured German gas canisters was opened at Porton Down late in the second world war, a research worker turned his back for a moment to pick up his notebook to record the effect on the animal he had exposed to it. By the time he looked back, the animal had died. Similar demonstrations have impressed on succeeding generations of soldiers the need for prevention rather than treatment.

The Iraqis have also used vesicants (blistering gases) against the Iranians and Kurdish tribesmen; these gases are the successors to the mustard and lewisite gas used in the first world war, and stockpiled in the second. With a blistering gas the initial damage is to the eyes and the mucus membranes of the tongue, throat and lungs; if the initial ulceration becomes secondarily infected, death may later come from bronchial pneumonia. The intensity and speed of the reaction depends on the chemical composition of the gas; mustard gas was slower to act but more damaging, lewisite faster but less disabling.



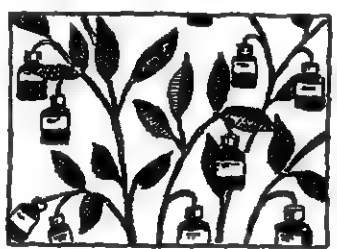
Natural danger

Nothing could be more natural than the foxglove growing in the English countryside, and in carefully defined doses its dried leaves are an invaluable tool in the treatment of heart disease; but taken in excess, they can kill. The naive belief that everything natural is healthy, and anything manufactured in the laboratory should at best be regarded with suspicion, is dangerous. Equally hazardous is the concept that if a small amount of a substance is good for you, more will be even better. Vitamins A and D and, recently, niacin, one of the vitamin B complex, have all been shown to be toxic in excessive doses; tragically, some of the people who have suffered severe liver damage from exces-

sive niacin were health enthusiasts trying to lower their cholesterol. The search for a healthy diet has created a food supplements business worth £140 million a year, but whereas a multi-vitamin pill for the badly nourished flat dweller, or extra vitamins C and E for patients with potential heart disease, can be justified, can propolis, a resin snatched from plants by bees and usually used to seal their hives, be the panacea its distributors claim? Will cranberry juice keep away cystitis, and ginseng, described as a legendary herb used by Amazonian Indians, really boost energy, endurance, vitality and stamina? Already the health department has warned doctors that germanium, a quite useless product widely

sold in health shops, could cause kidney damage.

Natural remedies may well be effective and safe, but the shopper would be well advised to use them only when they have been subjected to the same tests as, say, the latest Glaxo product. The recent example set by several London teaching hospitals which have carried out scientific trials on a Chinese herbal mixture, and have found it not only safe but apparently useful in the treatment of eczema, could well be emulated.

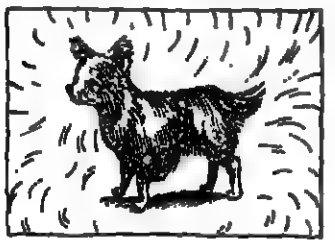


Festive after effects

If adults worship Bacchus too devoutly this Christmas, they may well suffer the tortures of the damned when their heads pound from cerebral oedema. But hangovers are self-inflicted; nobody forced them to drink too much, and they have only themselves to blame if they did not realise the relative strength of the drinks they had and their position in the hangover league. Port is the Liverpool of the league, followed in order by heavy and red wines, brandy, sherry, rum, whisky, cider, beer, white wine, gin and, at the

bottom of the league, vodka. Hangovers would also be eased if partygoers remembered to drink plenty of fluids before going to bed, and to take their Alka-Seltzer then rather than waiting until the morning.

But children, too, can suffer at Christmas, not in their case from port or even too many sweets, but from the general excitement, or even the happy tensions engendered by the proximity of too many warring adults whose only link too often is shared genes. The police say calls to settle domestic incidents always



peak over the Christmas holidays. One group particularly vulnerable is the children who are prone to atopy — the allergies which give rise to rhinitis (hay fever), asthma and eczema. Staying in other people's houses subjects them to a battery of trigger factors which have been removed from their own. Christmas does not render a grandmother's housemities any less irritating.

As there is a psychological factor in atopy, the tensions of Christmas, whether unpleasant ones such as feuding relatives, or exciting ones like present opening, may also precipitate an attack. Children with asthma who are going away from home should not forget their home peak flow meter, together with all their appropriate remedies. And parents should call a local doctor if they are worried; doctors never resent being called to see an asthmatic child.



Gabriele Rossetti's 1870 drawing, *Jane Morris Lying on a Sofa*: chronic fatigue is not new, and some believe it simply acquires new labels

Is help at hand for those too tired to lift a finger?

Chronic fatigue syndrome can be a cycle of misery for sufferers. Jeremy Laurance looks at why the condition remains a mystery

Fatigue is so widespread that everyone has an opinion on its cause. Surveys show that a fifth of men and a third of women admit to being "always tired" and 10 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women are "constantly tired".

But for some people, fatigue becomes so severe that it disrupts their lives. They cannot run a house or keep a job, and find most activities exhausting. These sufferers from chronic fatigue syndrome (defined as at least a 50 per cent reduction in activity for at least six months) have an extreme version of a common condition, not a separate illness. Its origin is controversial because it involves physical and psychological elements, touching on the sensitive area of the mind's effect on the body.

Our understanding of chronic fatigue syndrome, or myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), as it is also known, is still so rudimentary that it is more easily defined by what it is not. Chronic fatigue is not a disorder of muscle function, but neither is it "all in the mind". It has no single cause, viral or otherwise. It is not even clear whether it is infectious. It is not confined to "yuppies". It is not a discrete illness but the far end of a spectrum. "We have to ask why some people develop an extreme example of something that is widely present in the ordinary population," says Professor Anthony Mann, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

So what is chronic fatigue? Alas, there are no answers yet. The jury is still out. But there is one curious fact about chronic fatigue sufferers. They share several features with sufferers from other unexplained illnesses in the past. In the Sixties it was people with backache (for which disc lesions were blamed then) who were in the medical spotlight. In the Seventies the focus swung to premenstrual tension — said to account for all manner of mental and physical disturbances — and then to anxiety (accompanied by the boom in tranquilliser prescribing). By the Eighties food allergy had taken centre stage until it was displaced by chronic fatigue.

The sufferers from all these conditions have certain features in common: lethargy, sleeplessness, digestive disorders, depression, unexplained aches and pains. Some doctors believe they may be the same patients, given a different medical label as medical fashions have changed. "Throughout medical history there has been a chronically ill group who suffered from the condition then in vogue," says Anthony Clare, the clinical professor of psychiatry at Trinity College, Dublin. "In the Twenties it was focal sepsis, for which the recommended treatment was removal of the lymph gland. It has a curious echo today in the suggestion that ME patients should have the amalgam fillings in their teeth replaced in case of mercury poisoning."

As research into the condition continues, the puzzle deepens. The most popular suspect is a virus, but it has proved impossible to track down. There have been 30 recorded outbreaks of the disease around the world (such as that at the Royal Free Hospital in 1955, when dozens of staff fell ill) but no single infectious organism has been found which is common to them all. Sometimes a virus is clearly implicated but often it is not.

Abnormalities have been found in the immunological responses of patients with chronic fatigue, but there are "no consistent results in any patient group", according to Dr Les Borysiewicz, of the department of medicine at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge. Attention has focused on a possible disturbance in the ordinary balance of the Epstein Barr virus in the body, which is carried by 90

per cent of the population. But it is not found in all patients with chronic fatigue and treatment with an anti-viral drug has no effect.

Another suspect, enteroviruses, also shows an increasing prevalence of infection in chronic fatigue patients. But again they are not present in all.

The focus on a viral cause may be more a reflection of the new interest in immunology, which has grown as a result of Aids, than any real evidence. The American magazine *Newsweek* recently published a seven-page article on the latest research. "It really is a measure of how gripped America is by it," Professor Clare says. But on the evidence so far, the disease could just as plausibly be caused by toxins in the environment.

Is chronic fatigue syndrome a disorder of muscle function then? Apparently not. Though sufferers

'Doctors who deny it are medical dinosaurs. These people are ill'

feel tired even before they begin an activity and their fatigue is made worse by both mental and physical effort, electrical response tests show that the muscles are normal.

The problem with fatigue is that it is self-perpetuating. In experiments, medical students put to bed for three weeks suffered a complete loss of fitness and took weeks to recover. Lack of exercise upset muscle function. For this reason, Richard Edwards, professor of medicine at Liverpool university, advises chronic fatigue sufferers not to take life too easily, in sharp contrast to the advice offered by self-help groups. "Rest of itself is harmful," Professor Edwards says. At Liverpool, patients are treated by physiotherapists with a gradually increasing programme of physical exercise.

But it is the psychiatric aspects of the condition that are the most controversial. Fatigue is strongly — but not always — associated with depression, anxiety and stress. Two-thirds of hospital patients with chronic unexplained fatigue

have psychiatric illnesses (but one-third do not).

In one group of patients with chronic fatigue, 72 per cent were found to have a current psychiatric illness. But is it a cause or a result of the fatigue? Anyone who has felt tired for years might have reason to feel depressed. However, a study of a matched group of patients suffering from myasthenia gravis, a neurological disorder causing muscle weakness, found only half as many with psychiatric problems.

Nobody says chronic fatigue does not exist. "Doctors who deny it are medical dinosaurs," says Dr Peter White, senior lecturer in psychological medicine at St Bartholomew's hospital, London. "These people are ill. Stress is one psychiatric symptom that no one is ashamed about suffering from. But fatigue is a different matter."

Dr White argues that diagnosing depression where it exists is crucial because of the risk of suicide. At least six patients involved in the Royal Free outbreak of chronic fatigue syndrome later killed themselves. "The most important message in the management of these patients is: if you find depressive illness, treat it," he says.

The effect of the mind on the body is still little understood. The common cold, for instance, tends to affect introverts more than extroverts. The recovery of US servicemen from Asian flu depended, according to one study, less on the severity of their illness than on their age and level of depression, morale and emotional disturbance before they caught the infection. Almost all of us have antibodies to Epstein Barr virus, but the levels tend to rise with stresses such as exams, loneliness and depression.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is almost certainly the product of an array of factors, not a single cause. The danger for sufferers is that the illness can become self-perpetuating. It may begin with an infection or other event causing fatigue which leads into a cycle of rest, growing unfitness, more fatigue and inability to cope with work, causing stress and sleeplessness; the sufferer becomes run-down and prone to a worse reaction when the next infection occurs.

The aim of treatment is to break the cycle. But the biggest burden that sufferers have to bear is ignorance of the causes of the illness and uncertainty about how to escape from it. As Professor Clare puts it: "Most people would much rather have a disease that will kill them than an unexplained syndrome with which they will have to live."

He sourced his compatible in The Times.



The Times' Science and Technology section is fast becoming the forum for computing and IT professionals. So it's not surprising that The Times on Thursday is essential for employers and job hunters in computing and related industries.

If you're a professional looking for a job, you'll find a host of top-flight opportunities with prestigious companies.

And if you're an employer, you'll be reaching 1.2 million mainly AB readers.

Call 071-481 4481 to place your job advertisement in the media everybody's talking about — The Times on Thursday.

071-481 4481

GET THEM THROUGH THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

BREATHING SPACE Selfridges' Santa

I'VE been a Father Christmas for a long time — hundreds of years now. I leave preparations for the season to Mother Christmas, but on Christmas Day, after I've finished my rounds, we eat a fat-free Christmas pudding which she makes, and a lot of fruit. I used to eat venison but I don't anymore — Rudolph gets a bit upset. So we tend to stick to turkey or pheasant. Some cheese and a glass of port. We don't eat many sweets.

I walk to church and back on Christmas morning, and I have to take out the reindeer and exercise them. I come in every day from Lapland to Selfridges. It doesn't take very long, we just have to watch out for the odd Boeing 747.

Stress isn't really a problem, after all these years you just learn to cope with it. One thing I do find most beneficial is a spoonful of honey in hot milk before I go to bed. It works wonders.

You need to be fit to carry the sacks of toys, I walk a lot, and try to keep on a fat-free diet — I've got

a bit of a tum. I practise for the big day by climbing up on my own roof and dropping down the chimney. I do that once a week, then twice a week, and build it up, so I'm fairly fit. I have devised a way of getting into houses and flats without chimneys, but I can't let on how I do that. It's a trade secret.

I enjoy the odd glass of port or madeira. On Christmas Eve a lot of people leave out glasses of port and mince pies, so the diet tends to go for a bit more then, but I have the whole year to recover. I don't

drink too much, just a little sip, to show that I've been. Lots of girls and boys leave carrots for Rudolph. He likes that because it's quite tiring for him galloping backwards and forwards.

After the Christmas lunch I have a well earned rest, and maybe watch a bit of television in the evening. I take it easy for a week or so with Mother Christmas — she needs it. She spends most of her time cooking and making jam.

I don't smoke and don't drink too much. In the past I have attempted to make my own wines, which were quite successful with the gnomes. But over the festive season it's important to be careful, eating healthily.

I hope people won't drink too much, especially if they are driving, and it's not very pleasant to wake up on Boxing Day with an awful hangover. Go for a walk even if it's only ten or 15 minutes, some fresh air will do you a lot of good.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

Cowabunga! Turtles rescue mozzarella

At first glance, there seems little in common between teenage mutant hero turtles and the research work of the food-processing industry. However, the obsession with the animated reptiles has produced an unexpected side-effect.

Turtle-followers are mimicking their idols in droves, not by taking to the streets but to the pizza shops. Demand has soared in the fast-food business for the staple diet of teenage turtles: pizzas sprinkled with flakes of mozzarella cheese.

The trouble has come for the processing companies that supply huge quantities of pre-packaged shreds of the cheese in bulk containers.

Their machines for grating and packing mozzarella have clogged repeatedly as the flakes have stuck together and have been turned into great clumps of cheese. One answer was to dust the fragments with cellulose, because this makes it easier for the morsels to flow freely through the chute and into their containers. However, scientists at the food-processing laboratories of the BOC group, south London, produced a novel solution after the packagers in one large company asked for help with their machine-clogging.

Their answer was based on the modification of a new invention, Cryoflow, for the instant deep-freezing of all sorts of substances by bathing them in the super-cold of liquid nitrogen or a gaseous aerosol of the nitrogen as it vaporises from the liquid state at minus 196°C.

The technologists are designing machines that flash-freeze various types and sizes of foodstuffs and makes bulk-handling, storage and packaging much easier.

Accelerated nitrogen freezing is being used for storage of not only more familiar items such as soft fruits, vegetables and fish and meat stuffs, but also fresh yoghurt and fresh

liquid egg, without changing their natural state.

Moreover, the egg can be pasteurised, eliminating the salmonella risk, and then super-frozen so quickly that it retains its texture for use in mayonnaise or for omelettes or scrambled dishes.

The secret lies in a method of instantly freezing and storing the fresh yoghurt or egg in the form of bead-sized droplets.

An inherent virtue of nitrogen is that it is a biologically and chemically inert gas. Hence it is exploited in some shrewd applications for prolonging the shelf life of various products. One method, nitrogen sparging, is used to reduce the oxygen dissolved in liquids that causes the spoilage and rancid deterioration of



Demand for turtle food clogged cheese machines

foodstuffs from milk products, vegetable oils and mayonnaise. Nitrogen also gives a good smooth head to a pint of Guinness or bitter or to fizzy soft drinks when employed in their production and storage. In another variation, the team has devised a way of increasing the shelf life of many packaged foodstuffs by exploiting the huge change in volume of nitrogen as a liquid droplet vaporises when it is released from a dispenser.

The reaction has been used to drive air out of food packages and containers before they are sealed. The process is applied to packets or tubs of peanuts, whose shelf life is reduced by the oxygen in the air surrounding them.

The advance comes from dispensing just one droplet of liquid nitrogen into every packet a few seconds before the container is sealed, allowing enough time for the nitrogen to vaporise and purge the air before the lid is closed.

So while the fixation with hero turtles will soon fade into memory, the new applications of cryogenic technology are likely to continue to transform food-processing.

PEARCE WRIGHT

Magic of Mexico for media winner

The final results of the 1990 UK Technology Awards sponsored by the *The Times* and Hewlett Packard



The winners (back row, left to right): Paul Simons, Chris Bell, Andy Turnbull, Rick Nye. Front row: John Lettice, Alison Hjul, Tony Collins, David Tebbutt, Barry Fox

An article on the use of tone pads to make free calls from payphones has helped to win freelance journalist Barry Fox the title of news journalist of the year in the 1990 UK Technology Press Awards. His prize is a tour of Mexico City and Acapulco.

The awards, now in their seventh year and sponsored by *The Times* and Hewlett Packard, the computer and electronics company, were announced at last week's dinner at Claridge's, London, hosted by the writer and broadcaster Alan Coren.

Mr Fox, a freelance who writes regularly for *New Scientist*, also won the merit award for best treatment of a technical subject with articles on three-dimensional television and tapeless recording studios.

The award for the best television or radio programme went to the Electric Avenue series for *Computerising the President*, produced by Paul Simons for the BBC, showing the behind-the-scenes technology in American presidential campaigns.

Mac User, a fortnightly magazine for Apple Macintosh computer users, won two categories, as the best journal of the year, with an award for editor Alison Hjul, and as the best designed journal, with an award for art editor Andy Turnbull. The panel of 20 judges were from television, national newspapers and the leading publishing and trade associations

in the field. They praised the magazine for providing a sense of continuity and an excellent and useful service.

A new award for the best newcomer went to Rick Nye, of *Connexion*, who impressed the judges with a report on the telecommunications duopoly. His prize includes a commission to write for *The Times*.

For the third consecutive time, freelance David Tebbutt was named technology columnist of the year for his column in *Mac User*, which the judges described as setting the standard. He wins a holiday for two in the Maldives and Singapore.

The features journalist award, which includes a holiday in Texas and Arizona, went for the second year running to Tony Collins, the executive editor of *Computer Weekly*. His winning entries included articles on allegations that computer sales staff were using unethical selling tactics, and on whether electromagnetic interference can cause computers to crash.

The best photographer award went to Chris Bell for photographs in *Micro Design* and *Workstation*. The award for personality of the year, chosen from entrants' votes, went to John Lettice, the editor of *Microscope*. Nearly 400 entries were received.

The awards were presented by David Lipsey, the associate editor of *The Times*, and David Baldwin, Hewlett Packard UK's chairman.

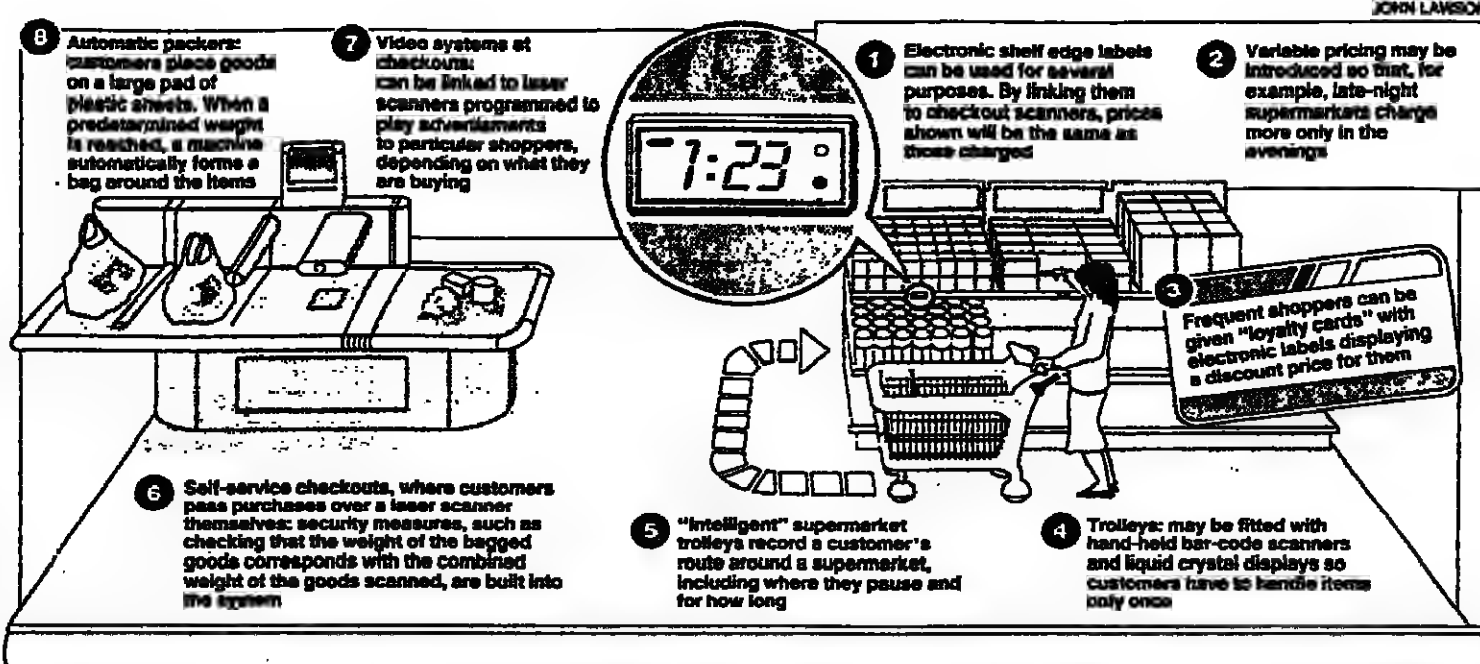
Goodbye Tracey, hello Robot

Supermarket queues could disappear with full electronic shopping, reports Richard Pawson

When you next find your self stuck in the supermarket checkout queue, it may be comforting to know that within five years such queues will have all but disappeared. Technology is about to change the face of shopping.

The checkout system is the bane of supermarket operations. The tills take up valuable floor space and absorb nearly a third of the labour cost in employing Traceys and Sharons behind the machines. To the customer, checkouts mean delays and repeated handling of purchases - from shelf to trolley, trolley to conveyor belt, then into box or carrier bag. Laser scanners and cheque printers have improved flow, but forward-thinking supermarkets are looking for ways to bypass the process altogether.

Check Robot is a joint venture by Procter & Gamble and Donnelly Marketing, on trial in several American supermarkets. Customers take items from their trolleys and pass them over a laser scanner on a moving belt. The items are then bagged by supermarket staff. Similar systems being launched in Europe incorporate security measures to check, for example, that the



total weight of the bagged goods equals the combined weight of the items scanned. Trials suggest that four out of ten customers will use self-checkout lanes.

In Britain, Marks & Spencer is experimenting with a robot packer. Customers place their goods on a large pad of plastic sheets. When a predetermined weight has been reached, the machine forms a bag around the items.

The most imaginative solution, however, is to incorporate the checkout system into the supermarket trolley. At the Albert Heijn

experimental "fun store" in Tilburg, The Netherlands, trolleys are fitted with hand-held bar-code scanners and a liquid display. Removable and reusable crates that fit on to the trolley mean that customers have to handle every item only once.

Some supermarkets are also testing electronic shelf-edge labels. Liquid crystal displays replace the conventionally printed shelf-price labels, and the prices are updated by the computers that operate the bar-code scanners at the checkout. Electronic shelf labelling will allow supermarkets to make instantane-

ous price changes with the possibility of variable pricing. Prices could vary during the day to encourage off-peak shopping.

New forms of electronic discount coupons are planned to improve precision. Vision 1000 is a promotional video system, located at the checkout, that selects promotions according to purchases made by the customer, as detected from the bar-code scanner. A discount can then be logged electronically on to a special customer payment card.

Identifying customer purchasing patterns is seen as a crock of gold by

some supermarket operators. One is experimenting with intelligent trolleys that record the routes that customers take through the store, where they pause, and for how long.

Customers may not welcome such intrusions. A senior manager from one big British supermarket chain says: "Supermarket customers value anonymity. When it becomes apparent that computers are charting their every move, they may go elsewhere."

● The author is a senior consultant with the management consultants Butler Cox.

Some people spend all their lives believing in Father Christmas.

To many people with a mental handicap we are Father Christmas. At MENCAP we're working all year round to help people lead happy and fulfilled lives. As well as making every Christmas their best Christmas we help them with things like training, housing and employment opportunities. With a donation from you, we'll be able to continue being Father Christmas to all of them. Please send a donation to Mencap, Freepost, London EC1B 1AA.



Peephole into enigma of Jewry

There are parts of New York, particularly Brooklyn, where every shop, even every house, has the same photograph on at least one of its walls. The photograph is of an old man with a white beard and small, sparkling eyes, just visible beneath a battered trilby. His picture is everywhere as a kind of talisman, designed to confer the old man's blessing on the people who live beneath it. For this man is the leader of a sect of Hasidim — those black-garbed, ultra-orthodox Jews whose brand of Judaism is strict, but ecstatic and intuitive. And, since Hasidism is about not only fundamentalist adherence to the letter of Jewish law, but also an Eastern-style mysticism, the leader is no ordinary rabbi. He is a *Rebbe*, a guru thought to have about him more than just a touch of the divine.

Accordingly, Rebbs are not elected, but succeed through heredity. Except now, there is a problem. The Rebbe of the Lubavitch — the best-known of the Hasidic sects — is nearly 90 and childless. Nobody speaks about the succession. Redemption will come before the Rebbe dies, they say. A fictionalised version of this situation is the dominant theme of Chaim Potok's latest Hasidic novel, *The Gift of Asher Lev*.

A death in the family brings Lev, a world famous painter whose work has caused him to be cast out of the community as a heretic, out of exile in France and back to Crown Heights, Brooklyn. There the Rebbe, lacking a dynasty, takes a special interest in the three Lev generations, and particularly the artist's five-year-old son. Slowly, Potok unravels the Hasidic riddle being played out — its most articulate expression coming in Lev's painting of the *Akedah*: the near-sacrifice by Abraham of his son Isaac to a demanding God. Unwittingly, he has painted this classic Jewish scene with himself and his son as the players.

Potok writes with great sensitivity on such matters, for this is the world in which he grew up, and where most of his work has been set. Indeed he has established himself as something of a guide into a realm that is an enigma to all outsiders, including the majority of Jews.

He evokes it best by detail:

Jonathan Freedland reviews the ultimate New York Jewish introverted novel

THE GIFT OF ASHER LEV



By Chaim Potok
Heinemann, £11.99

showing us a society where married couples sleep apart except on the Sabbath, when it is a commandment to have "togetherness", where only green salad can be eaten in non-kosher restaurants, where married women cut their hair for modesty, and wear wigs instead, and where children support baseball teams, by stating that the "Master of the Universe" wills their success.

But there is ambivalence. Lev, the novel's narrator, is torn between the Torah world of his upbringing, and the art world into which his "gift" has allowed him entry. As with *My Name is Asher Lev*, published in 1972, to which this is the sequel, this conflict is central. Then, when Lev was just a child with a prodigious talent, the struggle was more direct. Painting was seen as a diversion from more sacred work, and even a violation of the second commandment, which prohibits the making of graven images. This culminated in the shocking use by Lev of a crucifixion in one of his paintings. Now those issues are compounded by a new problem: Hasidism

provides community and closeness, which Lev's family love and need, but which he finds deleterious to his work.

Although this dilemma of the ultra-orthodox Jewish artists is described with personal experience by Potok — who is himself a rabbi — there is an imbalance in his depiction of it. He is better and more subtle when describing synagogues and prayer than galleries and canvases. He tends to over-write with the latter, as if it is knowledge acquired through study rather than osmosis. He does not help himself by having his artist-narrator in a period of creative block, which can make for listless and heavy-going reading. Nevertheless, a neat device is his balancing of the Rebbe with an artistic equivalent: the ghost of Picasso, who appears regularly with mystic offerings on the nature of creation with a small

The Spaniard's spectre is one of several lively cameos which complement the novel's main characters. Among these are Lev's children who, unusually, stand as well-rounded characters in their own right. An additional element is provided by Lev's wife, Dvora, a child survivor of the Nazi occupation of Paris, whose memories and nightmares make the Holocaust a constant presence in the novel, as it is in the Hasidic world itself.

In less skilful hands these multiple strands might have become tangled, but Potok weaves them into a good tale — even if it does lack the warmth of the first book, with Lev as a less likeable character now than he was then. Its best moments come when it penetrates into the heart of the Hasidic world, and when the true power of the Rebbe over his followers is conveyed. With bodyguards at his side, it is easy to see him as a kind of Godfather with side curbs; and Potok's direct reference to Hasidic activity in the Israeli and American elections of 1988 shows he is to be taken just as seriously.

Chaim Potok does not enjoy enough of his terms, and explanation of *The Gift of Asher Lev* is perhaps too dependent on having read the "prequel". For its insight into a small and semi-closed world with a unique outlook on life, it is worth the effort.



English from the realms of glory, gather for the Christmas story, rendered into verses rude but robustly cheerful and edifying

No room at pub for Joe and Mag

Brian Alderson

JOE CARPENTER & SON
An English Nativity
By Graham Clarke
Phaidon, £9.95

"PERFORMABLE verses for Christmas," says Graham Clarke in his sub-title, and then opposite a caricature of the Playmaster with a megaphone he sets the tone of proceedings with his epigraph:

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
Indeed they did old Billy Blake
And we portray the scene.

Irreverent, say you? Making mock of sacred texts? If so, then you had better not persevere with the nativity play itself, where the angel Gabriel comes on as a postman, and the landlord of the "Royal Star" ("mildly berry... brisk and cherry") is portrayed relaxing with a quart mug against the Fine Arts and Stout counter. Joe Carpenter and Mary, the girl next door, do indeed come by en route

for the census-takers (there is only one, slightly occluded, joke about the poll tax, mercifully) and the story follows its accustomed pattern:

No room old pal, I'm sorry mate.
I'm afraid you've left it rather late.

But if you think there is sacrilege going on in this 1990 English nativity, you might do well to brush up on some earlier shepherd's plays

and the like, where simple folk adapted the drama of the holy birth to the manners and the locality and the buffoonery that they knew. Mr Clarke is hardly a Mystery-writer, and his version may seem to owe more to the versification and the deliberate anachronisms of Marjorie Pryor — who wrote "the Stanley Holloway" monologues — than to Towneley. If, however, you have had to endure the limp platitudes that so often crop up in nativity plays, you will relish the swing and the absurdity of this new minting, illustrated with funny marginal drawings and delicious pastoral scenes, and you will recognise that there is a vein of worship here which is the stronger for being subsumed within the human comedy. Next year will someone invite me to a children's performance somewhere? Gotham Middle School perhaps.

ROSCOE HOWELLS is best known perhaps as a gifted Penobscott writer, who has produced a number of beautifully-written books on the county's offshore islands, Skomer, Skokholm, Ramsey and Caldey. He knows his way around the documentary evidence on the islands and he is very knowledgeable on the wider history of Penobscott. He writes in the tradition of those earlier Penobscott historians, George Owen, Richard Fenton, and Edward Laws.

As a former farmer of the south Penobscott soil for many years, Howells understands the ways of the land, its geology, and its people, with a special authority. Whenever I read a descriptive passage by Howells on the Penobscott scenery, with its uniquely attractive blend of land and sea, I am reminded of those early, brilliant paintings of the remote north Penobscott

A tale of two Britishes

David Rees

CRICKDAM
By Roscoe Howells
Gomer Press, £11.95

coast by Graham Sutherland.

For some time Howells has worked on a novel trilogy of Penobscott life from the mid-19th century to our own time. *Crickdam* is the first book of the series, while the second volume, *Heronsmill*, was published a decade ago. The concluding novel, *Roseanna*, will appear next year. Although the trilogy as a whole stresses the continuity of Penobscott life, each volume is self-contained.

Crickdam lies on the south Penobscott coast between

Amroth and Wisemans Bridge, a place overlooking the Severn sea, where over a century ago iron ore was dug from the cliff face. Here at a cottage at Crickdam was born Howells's hero, Luther Knox, an illegitimate and intelligent man, who works his way up in the spirit of the times to become an agent of the local big estate. Two themes, one historical, one personal, dominate the novel, and both are closely linked. The first theme is the eventually abortive attempt — a fact of Penobscott history — to establish an iron industry at Pleasant Valley near Crickdam.

The more personal and perhaps more subtly rewarding theme for the reader is Luther Knox's search for his parentage and his true identity, a quest that takes Knox through many aspects of life in Victorian Penobscott. For

Knox, bastard son of the gentry, the answers to this quest are discovered much too late in life for happiness or fulfillment. The exploration of Knox's character is completely convincing.

In *Crickdam* Howells has thus used the form of the regional historical novel to write a very good book. The writer is a natural story-teller, and his sometimes discursive, rambling style fits his subject. As someone who knows the land intimately, Howells is free from any sentimentality. He brings out the hidden life of the farming people, and also the degrading poverty that disfigured this society in the old days. But he loves Penobscott, and there is an intensity in his descriptions of the countryside which recalls Richard Jefferies and perhaps Henry Williamson (for Howells

has an uncanny insight into and sympathy for animals).

As a social analyst, moreover, Howells brings out in *Crickdam* the really fundamental division in Penobscott life, probably as valid now as a century ago. This of course is not class, but rather the division between English-speaking south Penobscott and the Welsh-speaking north of the county. The business of the social divide and where the demarcation (or "landmark") really runs is a tricky matter which outsiders often get wrong. But Howells, a true son of south Penobscott, understands all this, and adds an extra dimension to his novel by a sometimes comical contrast between the two peoples and their two tongues. *Crickdam* deserves an honourable place in the literature of Penobscott, that delightful land still distancing itself from the 20th century which its inhabitants like to call "the premier county".

Females of the gumshoe species

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

KINDRED CRIMES



By Janet Dawson
Macmillan, £11.95

of crime fiction's most human and likeable heroes.

● *The Last Gambit*, by David Delman (Collins, £11.95). Middle-ranking chess tournament in Philadelphia accompanied by plethora of jealousy, lust, revenge, and nouveau-KGB activities, much of it focused on Demetri Caganovich, philanthropist and general nasty. Lieutenant Jacob Horowitz, himself no mean pawn-pusher, joins the play, and is on hand for the homicide that follows. Chess clues are cleverly interwoven into the mystery: characters are wittily drawn and perform with conviction; and Jacob and wife Helen (absent much of the time on a curious kidnapping investigation of her own) are an endearing, if a little soppy, cop-shamus couple.

● *Well-Schooled in Murder*, by Elizabeth George (Bantam, £13.99). Public schoolboy's body in churchyard brings brooding aristocrat Inspector Linley, and down-to-earth sidekick Sergeant Barbara Havers, to investigate among usual assortment of oddball teachers and secretive pupils. Complex plots and relationships, elegantly written and with emotional sensitivity, both in and out of school. A pleasure to have George back on top form after her disappointing second novel last year.

● *Footsteps in the Blood*, by Jennie Melville (Macmillan, £11.95). Eavesdropping girl delivers ambiguous warnings of danger to two friends of newly-promoted Chief Superintendent Charnian Daniels. Her message is not taken seriously until she is found shot dead, without having revealed the identity of the threatener. Charnian's enquiries make her a target another copper's shot; and Charnian is increasingly ensnared in the killer's plans. Melville is terrific at building up atmospheric tension, and the climax is powerfully written and surprising. I only wish Charnian had — and was — a little more fun.

● *Savage Hexamer*, by Stephen Dobyns (Century, £12.99). Charlie Bradshaw, the racing town's P.I., finds a potential customer bobbing lifeless on a merry-go-round, tracks a hotel thief who leaves bad poems behind, and pretends to poetic skills himself to infiltrate a pretentious society beset by unpleasant events. There's a sinister retirement home, too, from which wrinkles depart with excessive speed. Not many gees-ees this time, but Dobyns continues to prove himself a first-class writer, let alone the creator of one

Old country matters

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

THE GILLYVORS
By Catherine Cookson
Bantam, £13.99

millier and his mother make her life a misery. One day she sees the curious ritual of a wife sale — which gives her new hope. Boaz Holt, a local tenant farmer, becomes for a short time her lover. All secrets are known in the country, and a threatened tragedy is very narrowly avoided.

● *The Child Bride*, by Philippa Wint (Robert Hale, £13.95). In 1964 a building site in Stepney revealed a coffin that turned out to be that of Anne Mowbray. She was the little girl who was married to Richard, Duke of York, one of the two little princesses who were (or were not, depending on how you feel about Richard III) murdered in the Tower. A bit player in the pageant of history, poor little Anne never had much of a chance of a life. This is an ingenious novel, introducing a spitting image of her, a double who was the bastard of her father.

● *The Forgotten Son*, by Christa Laird (Walker Books, £9.99). Clear prose, an identifiable story line, believable characters, and its prose immediately identifies this novel as one written for children. What happened to Peter Astralabe, the son of one of the most famous pairs of lovers in all history, Heloise and Abelard? As we all know, they parted and entered the religious life, Heloise for love of Abelard, rather than for love of God. The boy was brought up in Brittany, by Abelard's sister Denise, as part of her own family. The resolution is delicately (if somewhat improbably) done, but its appeal is not only to young adults.

THE part of the world Mrs Cookson comes from has now been named "Catherine Cookson country". Like James Herriot country, it is a mythic land, but in her case, founded on the harsh realities of her illegitimate birth, and her upbringing on Tyne-side. "Gillyvors" is a word of abuse — a bastard — and in a small village in County Durham in the middle of the last century there was a happy family. But they were outcasts, because their father had abandoned a drunken slut, who was his wife, and set up home with another woman.

This novel recounts their life, hedged around by what they could or could not do. Anna, the eldest girl, goes as a governess to the big house to teach a little boy neglected by his parents — and that brings forth a torrent of rage, hate, jealousy and death. Mrs Cookson has no illusions about the virtues of family life, or social class (she is particularly accurate on the hatred of the upper and lower classes for a young woman who wishes to improve her lot).

● *A Fallen Land*, by Janet Broomfield (Cape, £13.95), winner of the Historical Novel Prize in memory of George Heyer. This is an excellent first novel, set in the author's native Edinburgh in 1860. Helen Lambert is the eldest daughter who idolises her father, and has brought up the family after her mother's death. Lizzie, Creative has also brought up her brothers and sisters in a "lad" or tenement in the Old Town. Her life has been hard. By chance the two young women meet, and change and influence how the other half lives.

● *The Darkness of Corn*, by Caroline Stickland (Gollancz, £13.95). The industrial revolution has not yet reached the mill in Dorset, where young Beatrice Fayerdon has realised that her marriage to Daniel, the miller, is a terrible mistake. She has a happily married sister, as a refuge. But the

Good cooks are
always hungry
for new recipes.



The largest new bookstore in the UK is now open at 48 Kensington High St. London. There are over 50 other Dillons Bookstores nationwide.

Put Dillons on your Christmas list.

Electricity post to arrive by Christmas

ADVISERS to the electricity flotation say all 8.5 million letters containing share certificates and returned cheques will be in the post by the weekend. About three-quarters had been posted by last night and the Post Office has guaranteed delivery by Christmas.

Electricity shares were firm for the second day on the stock market, and analysts believe there may be no rush to sell once small investors receive their certificates. Manweb, favoured in the City, is just 2p short of its record high, up 2p at 175p and offering a 75p premium on its part-paid price.

Acatos in red

Acatos & Hutchison, the edible oils and fats maker, has suffered a £6.5 million loss for the year to end-September because of an ill-starred joint venture in Spain. The company has written off its entire £6.9 million investment in the venture. Before extraordinary charges, Acatos made pre-tax profits of £4.2 million (£4.5 million). A final 1.75p payout makes 3.5p (7p) for the year.

BTR lifts stake

BTR has raised its stake in Pilkington from 3.75 to 4.05 per cent, sending the latter's shares up 10p to 182p. Pilkington, which unveiled details of a £140 million joint venture to build Poland's first float glass plant, fought off a £1.2 billion bid from BTR four years ago. Comment, page 23

City Site loss

City Site Estates, the Glasgow property group, has reported a pre-tax loss of £980,000 for the year to September (£7 million profit). Net assets per share fell 26 per cent to 237p. The final dividend rises 20 per cent to 0.96p (0.8p) making a total 1.92p (1.6p). Times, page 23

Reuters holding

The stake in Reuters Holdings held by The News Corporation, parent company of News International, owner of The Times, has fallen by a further 0.29 per cent after the redemption of preference shares issued by the group, which were backed by 1.27 million Reuters shares. News Corp's stake, once more than 10 per cent, had dipped below 2 per cent.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9315 (-0.0035)
German mark 2.8534 (-0.0187)
Exchange Index 93.1 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1707.1 (+12.9)
FT-SE 100 2178.7 (+16.9)
New York Dow Jones 2821.04 (-5.69)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24876.78 (+452.76)

Closing Prices ... Page 25

Major indices and major changes ... Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month Interbank 14.125%
3-month deposit bill 13.25%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7.125%
3-month Treasury Bill 6.625%
30-year bonds 106.11/106.12

CURRENCIES

London: New York £: \$1.9315
Frankfurt: DM: £1.7800
Paris: FF: £1.3663
Geneva: Sfr: £1.4835
Tokyo: Yen: £1.6250
Hong Kong: HK\$: £7.7560
Singapore: S\$: £1.3663
Australia: A\$: £1.5400
Canada: C\$: £1.3300
New Zealand: NZ\$: £2.0700
South Africa: Rand: £1.6600
Switzerland: Sfr: £1.4835
Italy: Lira: £2036.27
Spain: Ptas: £166.64
Greece: Dr: £340.75
Portugal: Esc: £200.48
Netherlands: Gld: £10.3636
Belgium: Franc: £36.3636
Luxembourg: Franc: £36.3636
Austria: Sch: £13.7603
Denmark: Kr: £16.5469
Finland: Mark: £5.9457
France: Franc: £6.5595
Germany: DM: £1.7800
Greece: Dr: £340.75
Hong Kong: HK\$: £7.7560
Italy: Lira: £2036.27
Japan: Yen: £161.0714
Norway: Kr: £4.76
Portugal: Esc: £200.48
South Africa: Rand: £1.6600
Spain: Ptas: £166.64
Sweden: Krona: £4.6633
Switzerland: Sfr: £1.4835
Turkey: Lira: £166.64
USA: Dollar: £1.0000
Yugoslavia: Dnr: £20.50

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$376.80 pm \$378.50
close \$378.50 379.40 (£196.00-196.50)
New York: COMEX \$381.25-381.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$27.85 bbl (\$27.30)
Dated for latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.58	2.44
Austria Sch	21.70	19.70
Belgium Fr	23.33	23.02
Canada C\$	11.58	10.88
Denmark Kr	10.18	9.58
Finland Mk	2.89	2.80
France Fr	15.58	14.78
Germany DM	3.19	3.16
Greece Dr	1.25	1.05
Hong Kong \$	7.75	7.75
Italy Lira	2036	2036
Japan Yen	3375	3375
Norway Kr	4.76	4.76
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
South Africa Rand	1.66	1.66
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Krona	4.66	4.66
Switzerland Sfr	1.48	1.48
Turkey Lira	166.64	166.64
USA \$	1.00	1.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	20.50	20.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October)

GDP fall of 1.2% worst for ten years

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economy suffered its fastest decline for a decade during the third quarter, with the gross domestic product shrinking 1.2 per cent from the previous quarter, government figures show.

While the GDP data confirmed the start of the recession, a Central Statistical Office survey of manufacturers' intentions pointed to industry cutting investment 7 per cent next year after paring it 3 per cent this year, under the impact of the counter-inflationary squeeze.

The fall in investment from last year's record level was the biggest since the mid-Eighties.

The worsening investment picture reflects how badly industry has been affected, with demand slowing and profits contracting. The sharp rise in unemployment last month signalled industry's growing distress and attempts to make urgent adjustment.

Companies' gross trading profits shrank 6.5 per cent in the third quarter to stand 3.1 per cent below the same period last year.

The gloomy numbers came as the pound softened, highlighting the government's dilemma. Faced with a deepening

recession, Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism is limiting its scope for much-needed monetary easing.

The provisional 1.2 per cent fall in the average measure of GDP in the third quarter, after an 0.4 per cent rise in the second, represented the biggest quarter-on-quarter decline since the last recession, when it fell 1.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1980.

Against the third quarter of 1989, the economy grew a modest 0.6 per cent, its poorest quarterly performance for nine years on the average measure, which encompasses output, income and expenditure. The deterioration was broadly based.

The output measure of GDP, regarded as the most reliable guide to short-term movements in activity, shrank 1.2 per cent in the third quarter, worse than the initially reported 1 per cent fall.

Non-oil GDP was estimated to have fallen 0.5 per cent between the second and third quarters, but was 1.1 per cent up on the same quarter last year. The first three quarters were 1.5 per cent ahead of the same period of 1989.

With all the pointers showing that the economy has

slowed further this quarter, the question worrying government and City alike is how severe the recession will be.

Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais, saw cause for concern in falling investment and rising jobs. Compared with the last recession in the early Eighties, when cutbacks made sense, circumstances now were different. "Now the industrial base is much smaller, where can you afford to cut?"

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, expressed concern that the economy was starting to look like a "repeat performance of the early Eighties".

The GDP factor cost deflator, widely regarded as the best gauge of domestically generated inflation, rose 2 per cent in the third quarter for an annual gain of 9 per cent, broadly in line with other inflation measures.

Consumers' expenditure fell 0.6 per cent in the third quarter, with total spending down 2.5 per cent on durable goods, down 1.1 per cent on cars, and down 5.5 per cent on furniture and flooring.

The manufacturers' investment intentions showed industry expecting a 9 per cent fall in direct expenditure next year, while spending on leased assets could rise 9 per cent.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said collapsing investment was likely to make the recession "longer and deeper" than the Treasury expected.

Stocks fell by about £200 million in the third quarter, after a fall of £100 million the previous quarter, disappointing those forecasters who expected large-scale de-stocking as the economic conditions deteriorated.

In a sign that America's economy was stumbling this summer toward a widely perceived current recession, the Commerce Department reported that GNP grew at 1.4 per cent annual rate in the third quarter (Susan Elliott writes from Washington).

The department's second and final revision of the country's total output of goods and services between July and September showed a drop from the 1.7 per cent growth rate estimated a month earlier.

Sterling at six month low against the mark

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound fell to its lowest level for six months against the mark and sterling market rates eased to below 14 per cent yesterday.

The sharp fall in sterling, which declined by almost two pence to DM2.8535, partly reflected the generalised strength of the mark, which rose against all major currencies after the cut in the American discount rate on Tuesday. The yen and the franc both fell against the mark, almost as sharply as sterling.

The Federal Reserve's discount rate decision was followed yesterday by money market operations in New

York that confirmed that the Fed's new target for Federal Funds had fallen from 7 1/4 to 7 per cent.

Another important factor moving the markets was the belief that British interest rates might be cut in the not too distant future even if the pound remained in the lower half of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

In spite of the sharp fall in the pound at the market's opening, trading was relatively thin and there was little additional pressure resulting from the weak figures on capital spending and gross domestic product published at lunchtime.

Nadir stays in custody as bail talks continue

By ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir, chairman and biggest shareholder in Polly Peck International, spent his third night in Wormwood Scrubs prison and his fifth in custody after failing to provide £2 million cash needed for bail.

Mr Nadir had already lined up sureties on £1.5 million but has so far been unable to deposit the record cash amount with his solicitors.

The Turkish-Cypriot businessman was granted bail on Monday in Bow Street magistrates court after being charged with 18 offences of theft and false accounting worth more than £25 million. An application to have the terms of the bail order varied in the High Court was adjourned yesterday but Mr Nadir's solicitors, S J Berwin and Vizards, have reserved the right to appear today.

About one third of PPI's assets and almost half of its

profits are sourced in the near east. Administrators, who were appointed to the fresh firm, electronics and hotels group almost two months ago, have concentrated on unravelling the financial details of subsidiaries in the unofficial republic of northern Cyprus and Turkey.

They believe "a good proportion" of some £200 million in cash which was purportedly deposited in northern Cyprus had in fact been invested in hotels and holiday villages in the region.

Richard Stone, one of the administrators from Coopers & Lybrand, said "more than half but less than three-quarters" of the £200 million was apparently spent on proposed leisure deals. Two Polly Peck hotels have opened in the past four months, the Jasmine Court in Girona, northern Cyprus, and the Voyager in Antalya, Turkey. Four more

hotels were slated for construction in northern Cyprus along with the Crystal Cove holiday village before the company's collapse.

Meanwhile, one of the figures closely associated with the PPI investigation, Elizabeth Forsyth, who worked for South Audley Management, a company controlled by a Nadir family trust, has returned to her home in Grantham after a three month absence.

The Serious Fraud Office plans to interview Mrs Forsyth and her former associate Jason Davies, who lives in Switzerland.

Mrs Forsyth's friend and neighbour Mrs Elizabeth Jackson yesterday said: "She told me they don't want to interview her until January. She believes she's safe from arrest. I don't think she'd have come back to Britain if she thought they were going to whip her away."

Hope for Queensway customers

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CUSTOMERS who are creditors of Lowndes Queensway, the Carpetland and Queensway furniture retailer that went into receivership in August, look set to get all their money back, although no payments will be made until the end of March at the earliest.

Other creditors, including the banks, who are owed £242 million are unlikely to receive any money.

Jonathan Phillips, of Price Waterhouse, who is administering the payments, said he was optimistic that customers who had placed deposits with the company before it went into receivership would be paid 100p in the pound.

Previously, he had estimated the payout to be about 75p in the pound. The payout will come from the £15 million insurance policy for customer deposits put in place by Norman Ireland, who succeeded James Gulliver as chair-

man of Lowndes in January. The insurance policy only comes into effect when Lowndes goes into liquidation.

That is not likely to happen until January 23, the date on which the High Court has been petitioned by the receivers for a winding up order. The first payments can be made 67 days after liquidation.

Mr Phillips said he had received 41,925 claims and that even if further valid claims were submitted there was still the possibility of payment in full. "We still have some leeway under the policy," he said.

Initially, Mr Phillips had estimated total claims, some of which run to several thousands of pounds, to be £16 million.

However, since Lowndes went into receivership some customers have received the goods they had ordered. Others, who paid for their goods by

credit card, had been compensated by the credit card companies under the Consumer Credit Act.

Terry Carter, of Ernst & Young, one of the receivers, said that he had petitioned on November 15 for Lowndes Queensway Group to go into liquidation to facilitate the payment of the insurance money to customers.

But he said that the 140 Lowndes Queensway shops that constitute the trading company would continue to trade.

A further 17 shops will shut before Christmas Eve, with the loss of about 100 jobs.

The management team attempting to put together a buyout of the carpet stores is still trying to put together a financial package.

Mr Carter said it was impossible to say how long the receivers would continue to be involved with the group.

SIB rejects raising compensation

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Standing firm: David Walker, SIB's chief, who is against raising the maximum payment

DAVID Walker, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, has held out against any increase in the maximum amount of compensation payable to victims of collapsed investment firms.

Mr Walker said the maximum payment of £48,000, unchanged since the scheme's inception in August 1988, would not be reviewed for another 12 months. He suggested prudent investors should avoid using any single investment firm to handle more than £50,000 of their savings.

The investor compensation scheme is set to cost £12 million this year, up from £7 million in the year to last March. Mr Walker confirmed during testimony before the Commons Trade and Industry select committee yesterday.

When pressed to explain why the limit had not been increased in line with inflation, Mr Walker replied that the maximum payment was anyway higher than he would have wished. He feared any increase would lead to higher levies on investment firms, driving more out of business and reducing the availability of independent advice.

The largest financial claims on the scheme had come from the Financial Intermediaries and Brokers Association, one of five self-regulatory bodies (SROs) overseen by the SIB, he said.

Mr Walker said the SIB checked extravagant promises by investment advisers "unequivocally," relying upon examination of published advertisements. "I have to say our efforts in that respect are not wholly satisfactory." But the SIB could not know what promises advisers made to clients in conversation.

Pressure has grown from the SROs to be represented on the SIB's 14-strong board. But Mr Walker told the committee: "I would oppose to my dying breath the proposition that the board should include delegates."

He was asked whether tied agents, who sell investment products on behalf of particular companies, should not be separately regulated. There was "a very good argument" for doing so, he replied, but it would not be the most cost-effective course.

Mr Walker told the committee the SIB's budget would rise to £16 million for the year to March 1991 from £12 million in 1990. It had been bolstered by the £3 million to £4 million cost of relocating the organisation from offices opposite the Bank of England and in the Moorgate, to Islington, on the northern fringe of the City of London.

However, the SIB's costs should rise by little more than inflation from now on, he said.

Comment, page 23

Building sector 'faces big declines'

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GLOOMY prospects for economic recovery are indicated by forecasts for the construction industry for the next two years, just published by the National Economic Development Council.

Construction is usually one of the first sectors to feel the impact of any downturn, with a ripple effect to other sectors dependent on new building.

Forecasts which suggest a lengthy recession in the building industry might indicate that any upturn may well not come until after the end of next year, the point at which organisations such as the CBI expect an improvement.

The development council suggested that construction output will fall during the next 12 months, led by a sharp decline in commercial building work.

While the council stressed that its forecast of construction output for 1992 is still above what was considered a boom level in 1987, some of the predictions are severe enough for it to foresee "dramatic" slumps in some building sectors and especially in London.

High interest rates are cited as the main cause of the slump.

In overall terms, the forecasting committee of the council's construction industry sector group said there would be a decline in new work of 7 per cent next year and 7.5 per cent in the following year.

The commercial sector will be the worst hit. The council estimated that output in this area grew by 10.5 per cent this year, but suggests this will be followed by "a very rapid and steep decline".

Construction Forecasts 1990-1992. NEDC. Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QX. £30.

BAe benefits from £3bn Nippon order

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

IN ONE of the biggest and most significant aircraft orders ever placed, All Nippon Airways is to buy 25 Boeing 777s and ten Airbus A340s in a deal worth almost £3 billion.

The order for the twin-engine 777 jets being designed by Boeing came as no surprise because the Japanese aerospace industry will take a 20 per cent share in its development and building.

The decision to buy the four-engine A340 was welcomed throughout Europe and represents a breakthrough into the growing Far East market dominated by the Japanese. It could also prove a significant pointer to sales of the Airbus family, including the order soon to be placed by British Airways.

British Aerospace builds the wings for the A340, which represent a 26 per cent share of the value of the aircraft. A total of 89 A340s have been sold to 12 customers and a further 131 twin-engine A330s are also on order.

Arguments remain over the use of twin-engine aircraft over ultra long ranges. Airbus believes that a four-engine jet has a safety advantage over long-distance water crossings. Many airlines, including BA, are pondering whether to buy long range versions of the Boeing 777 or opt for the A340, which is of similar size and range. ANA says it will use the 777 on its domestic and Asian services after the first deliveries in 1995 and use the A340, which will be in service a year later than the Boeing, on longer routes. Airbus is hopeful that BA could follow suit.

BAe's budget would rise to £16 million for the year to March 1991 from £12 million in 1990. It had been bolstered by the £3 million to £4 million cost of relocating the organisation from offices opposite the Bank of England and in the Moorgate, to Islington, on the northern fringe of the City of London.

However, the SIB's costs should rise by little more than inflation from now on, he said.

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

Comment, page

Bonn concern over repeat of Soviet payment problems

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PAYMENT delays by Soviet and other East European exporters are expected to resurface next year, as the foreign trade organisations run out of hard currency and the countries of the region are plunged into deep economic recession.

Government sources in Bonn are particularly worried about a recurrence of Soviet

payment problems, which surfaced early in the year and reached their height in the summer.

A five billion mark German government loan guarantee, given by Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his visit to the Soviet Union this summer for the repayment of existing debt, has been used up. The guarantees were deemed nec-

essary to maintain the flow of trade between the two countries, as numerous medium-sized German companies were threatened with bankruptcy because of the payment difficulties, and larger companies were threatening to stop trading with the Soviets.

The German government can ill-afford to pledge another such guarantee, as fears are growing that the payment problems will return, probably even more strongly, given the difficult state of the Soviet economy.

Germany is particularly affected because of its position as the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner. The government fears an explosion in liabilities of the Hermes export credit insurance, the government-backed exporters' insurance scheme.

Hermes faces a deficit of DM5 billion, its highest, and is likely to clamp down on new export credit guarantees, except those for specific projects. In a recent report, Hermes gave warning that the Soviet foreign trade organisations would find it increasingly difficult to meet their obligations. If Hermes were to stop backing new trade ventures, this could lead to the abrupt collapse in German-Soviet trade, which totalled DM11.5 billion last year.

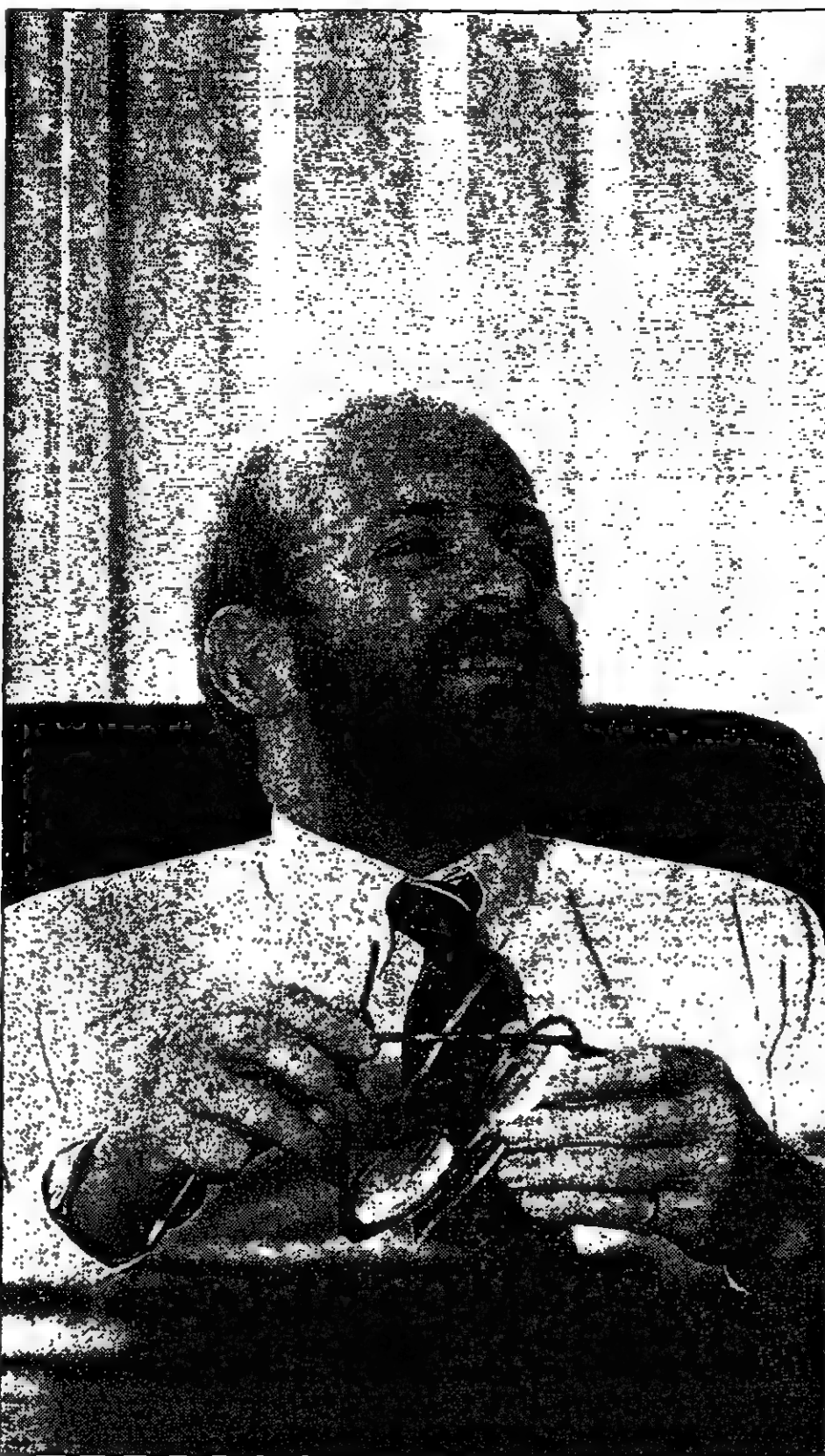
The insurance scheme will also need to cover the shortfall in trade between the former East Germany and the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it is expected that other central and East European countries may soon make similar claims as they have suffered from increasing default by eastern German importers. There are as yet no provisions for compensation, although it is expected that the German government will have to agree to compensation in some form.

The trade situation with other East European countries is likely to deteriorate in the coming months because of more costly energy. From January, the Soviet Union will reduce cheap oil supplies, thereby forcing countries such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland increasingly to meet their demands on world markets, where oil prices have risen strongly since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

An accord between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia over oil supplies was reached this week, with the Soviet Union agreeing to supply 7.5 million tonnes of oil next year, less than half the country's needs, at sharply increased prices.

The expected explosion of deficits in the Hermes insurance scheme will further strain the German budget deficit, estimated to top DM150 billion next year, about 5 per cent of GNP. But almost every week the government has faced unexpected costs, mostly relating to the reconstruction of the eastern German regions. Tax rises, or other revenue-raising measures, such as the introduction of a DM100 autobahn user fee, are being considered to meet at least some of the shortfall.

USH back in the black



Executive post: Nicholas Preet, appointed chief executive since the bid, yesterday

UNITED Scientific Holdings, the tank and gun sight manufacturer which last year survived a hostile bid by Meggit, is back in profit. During the 12 months to the end of September, the company earned pre-tax profits of £2.16 million, compared with losses of £3.7 million in the previous 12 months, writes Martin Barrow.

However, after payment of preference dividends the group is left with reduced losses of 12.8p a share, against

9.3p. Ordinary shareholders receive a final dividend of 1.5p a share for a maintained total of 2p.

Meggit allowed its £110 million bid to lapse in November 1989, despite winning the support of 83 per cent of the shareholders, after USH made available to shareholders previously unpublished financial information that shed doubts over its future prospects.

Since then, Nick Preet has been appointed chief executive and USH has completed the disposal of Optic Electronic Corporation, an American subsidiary, for an initial \$36 million.

USH originally agreed to sell the business to lmo for \$65 million during the takeover battle, but the deal was blocked by the Federal Trade Commission. An extraordinary item of £2.7 million has been charged against OEC's book value after tax.

The deal will need to be approved by the Bundeskartellamt, the monopolies watchdog. The sale is unlikely to meet with any objections, given the already concentrated state of the industry.

Temps, page 23

Mannesmann disposal

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE consolidation of Europe's computer industry has taken another turn with Mannesmann, the German engineering group, selling its Kienzle data systems subsidiary to Digital Equipment Corporation.

The terms of the deal were not disclosed. Under the agreement Digital Equipment will hold a 65 per cent stake in the new company, Digital-Kienzle Computersysteme, with effect from January 1, with Man-

nesmann retaining a 35 per cent holding. Kienzle came into the Mannesmann group in 1981.

Kienzle is based in Villingen, a small town in the south-west of Germany, and the new company will continue to operate from there.

The deal came after a long search by Mannesmann for a partner for its troubled data systems division, which made a net profit of only DM3.5 million last year, on turnover of almost DM1 billion. The

sale of Kienzle amounts to another consolidation in the German computer industry, after Nixdorf, once the rising star, was sold to Siemens, which is now the largest computer manufacturer in Europe.

The deal will need to be approved by the Bundeskartellamt, the monopolies watchdog. The sale is unlikely to meet with any objections, given the already concentrated state of the industry.

FSM shares are 'bear raided'

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Ford Sellar Morris (FSM), the highly geared property company, lost almost half their value before an announcement from the company - stating that it knew of no reason for the fall - prompted a recovery.

Having fallen from 51p to 42p on Monday and Tuesday, the shares plunged almost 20p to a middle price of 22.5p at one point, as rumours spread of problems affecting some of the company's joint ventures.

A statement from chairman Irvine Sellar said there was "no substance in these rumours". Mr Sellar said: "We have been bear raided. The rumours were wide of the mark and very stupid." The shares finished 5p lower at 37p.

One story suggested a link with the Point West residen-

tial development in West London, which was placed in administrative receivership last week. Point West is being developed by a subsidiary of Land & Property Trust, a private company run by Berish Berger. Mr Sellar said he had never met Mr Berger and that FSM had no involvement whatsoever in the development.

There were also suggestions of problems at FSM's two joint ventures with Berisford, one in Edinburgh and another in west London. "The joint ventures with Berisford are perfectly under control," said Mr Sellar.

Mr Sellar said that gearing, which currently stood at around 130 per cent would drop to 100 per cent by April. The company's interim results are due in January.

Wasserstein picks Levene for UK

By JONATHAN PRYNN

WASSERSTEIN Perella, the Wall Street mergers and acquisitions adviser best known in Britain for its involvement in the Gateway bid battle, has appointed Sir Peter Levene, a senior civil servant, as its deputy chairman in Britain.

Sir Peter, aged 49, will be leaving his present position as chief of defence procurement at the Ministry of Defence to take up the post next year. Between 1981 and 1985 he was chairman of United Scientific Holdings, the defence group.

Bruce Wasserstein, president and chief executive officer of Wasserstein Perella, said: "Sir Peter's successful experience with British industry and government brings an added dimension to our capability to provide sophisticated advice."

Sir Peter said that having run a defence company for 20 years, he was looking for a new challenge that could make use of his accumulated experience. "Not many merchant bankers have run a business. Even fewer have also been a permanent secretary," he said.

Sir Peter has served in his present position since 1985 and has been widely credited



Levene: new challenge

with the introduction of tough, commercial, fixed price procurement standards to the Ministry of Defence.

His appointment marks an important development in Wasserstein's European strategy. The firm has 50 staff in Britain, though senior posts were previously held by Americans. It has had a high profile in the top end of the British mergers and acquisitions market in the past two years.

In May it led a management consortium formed to acquire the Yardley-Lentheric cosmetic business from Smith-Kline Beecham. It also has a 20 per cent stake in Isosceles, the buy-in vehicle which owns the Gateway chain.

Cabra sinks to £5.2m losses at half time

By OUR CITY STAFF

CABRA Estates, which owns the football grounds occupied by Chelsea and Fulham football clubs, has reported a pre-tax loss of £5.2 million for the six months to September. In the nine months to September 1989, the company made a pre-tax profit of £4 million.

The losses include a £1.5 million writedown in the value of the trading properties. An interim dividend of 0.1p (1.25p) is being paid.

John Duggan, the chairman, said: "The property market is

diabolical. I don't think I have seen anything quite like it before." Despite the losses, Mr Duggan said Cabra's borrowings and cash flow were under control and it was in good shape to weather the storm.

At Fulham's Craven Cottage ground, Cabra is now drawing up a revised plan for a residential riverside development. An earlier scheme was rejected by the Department of Environment but the principle of the ground's development was accepted.

Lilley refers Morgan Crucible purchase

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN about the British market for ceramic fibres, which are used as a heat insulator in high temperature applications, has prompted Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, to refer an acquisition by Morgan Crucible to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Morgan Crucible, the industrial materials and electronics group, paid £81.4 million for a package of businesses owned by Manville International in June.

Bruce Farmer, managing

director of Morgan Crucible, said the reference was a "total surprise". It was made on the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading.

Farmer said the Manville businesses sold about £2 million a year of fibres manufactured in Europe into Britain. Those sales, added to Morgan's British-made UK sales, might give his company a market share in ceramic fibres of about 30 per cent.

The commission has been asked to report by April 17.

Borrie seeks to stop boycott

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

SIR Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, is to apply to the Restrictive Trade Practices Court for an interim order to prevent insurance brokers boycotting General Accident from January 1.

It will be the first occasion on which the director general has sought such an order. The main action will be against the Institute of Insurance Brokers and two firms whose principals are directors of the institute. Sir Gordon's decision to go ahead this morning with the application came after a meeting yesterday with representatives of the institute, which is calling on members to stop selling all General Accident products.

The brokers are angry that General Accident agreed to provide insurance for some



A first for Sir Gordon

80,000 people buying cars from the Ford motor company. Under the deal, which gave the buyers free insurance, they were also guaranteed a full no-claims discount at the end of the five year.

Andrew Paddick, the institute's director general, claims the scheme will enable

bad drivers to drive high performance cars.

Sir Gordon Borrie will have to show the court that the boycott will be of material detriment to General Accident or the public. If it is felt that the boycott is in the public interest, the order will not be granted.

General Accident accounts for 8 per cent of the motor insurance market. The company claims that 1 per cent of its business comes through institute brokers.

Earlier this year, the institute threatened to boycott Eagle Star products, but the dispute was settled amicably.

General Accident says it first offered a special policy to a motor company in 1937, when it dealt with Morris. Since then, it and other companies have offered various schemes.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GM Firth (Holdings) cuts interim dividend

GM FIRTH (Holdings), which has interests in steel and furnishing and flooring concerns, is cutting its interim dividend from 2.25p to 1p a share following a swing from a previous £2.03 million pre-tax profit to a £289,000 pre-tax loss for the six months ended September.

The company says that, although its core activities performed well, the overall loss was the result of an unsuccessful expansion into engineering steels and machine tools in the Southeast, and high interest rates. The interest charge at half-time was £1.07 million compared with £698,000, which more than cancelled out the interim trading profits of £965,000, compared with £2.8 million. Ian Wasserman, chairman, says he is hopeful that the worst is over. The shares fell 4p to 24p.

Scaffolding group's loss

BRITISH Building and Engineering Appliances, the scaffolding group, blamed the industry downturn and high interest rates for pre-tax losses of £115,000 in the six months to end-September against profits of £277,000 last time. For the second year running, the interim dividend is halved, to 0.5p this time. Steps have been taken to cut costs.

No payout at Video Magic

VIDEO Magic Leisure, the video rental chain, has reported unchanged pre-tax profits of £123,000 in the half year to end-September, blaming the downturn in consumer spending. But the number of shares issued over the past year and a higher tax rate has reduced earnings per share from 1.84p to 0.48p. There is again no interim dividend.

Interim slide at Ball

AH BALL, the water pipeline contractor, has confirmed the profits warning issued in October with a 38 per cent slide to £376,000 in interim pre-tax profits to end-September. Turnover was reduced by 17.6 per cent to £2.6 million and the gross profit margin slumped from 33 per cent to 29.2 per cent. Earnings per share fell from 6.3p to 3.7p.

However, the company announced two new orders from Southern Water Services and Portsmouth Water worth a total of £1.85 million. These contracts "should ensure no further deterioration in the next six to nine months". The interim dividend is held at 2.2p.

Profits slump at West Trust

WEST Trust, the specialist textiles group, saw pre-tax profits slump from £445,000 to £191,000 in the six months to end-September as low levels of trade continued in the textile industry. But the interim dividend is held at 0.25p. West normally generates more profits in the second half than in the first and the board still expects this in the current year.

Bloom helps Sterling rise

A SIX-MONTH contribution from Bloom Engineering, an American combustion systems maker, has helped Sterling Industries, the light engineering group, to increase pre-tax profits to £2 million (£1.3 million). Earnings per share grew 15 per cent to 4.52p, after a two-for-five rights issue. The interim dividend rose 11 per cent to 1.5p.

First electricity ruling

THE director general of electricity supply has made his first ruling in a dispute between a company and a domestic customer and has stressed that disconnection should be the industry's last resort.

Professor Stephen Littlechild was asked to rule on whether the unnamed company could require the customer to install a prepayment meter outside his house, pay outstanding charges of £1,084 and provide £400 as security against future bills. Professor Littlechild agreed to the installation of a meter but found that only £360 of the outstanding charges should be paid. He refused the demand for a deposit.

Recession looms for Scotland

By OUR CITY STAFF

SCOTLAND will soon move into the recession gripping the rest of the United Kingdom, economists predict.

The Fraser of Allander Institute said that the Scottish economy had so far survived the slump affecting the South.

Growth in Scottish production was nearly five times that of the UK in the first half of 1990; consumer spending more buoyant; and the jobsless total fell for seven months after it began to rise elsewhere.

The Scottish building industry had now gone into sharp decline; businessmen were more gloomy; and export markets had slackened.

Jim Love, editor of the institute's *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, said: "We can expect to see signs in the early part of 1991 that Scotland will start to move more into line with the performance of the UK economy as a whole."

Harrison falls to £422,000

By OUR CITY STAFF

HARRISON Industries, the industrial doors, power transmission and castings group, which gave warning earlier this year of difficult trading conditions, reported pre-tax profits of just £422,000 for the six months to the end of September, down from £1.75 million.

The shares fell from 69p to 57p.

Although turnover increased from £21.49 million to £22.91 million, operating profits dropped from £1.92 million to £750,000 after an exceptional charge of £111,000 following the reorganisation of the industrial doors division.

Fosco

The Takeover Panel has asked us to make clear that the level of support for Fosco mentioned in yesterday's edition was derived from *The Times* own researches and was not a claim made by Fosco.

Guidance for auditors

THE Auditing Practices Committee of the accountancy institutes has drawn up a detailed practice note for auditors of investment businesses.

The guidance note is intended to ensure that businesses comply with the detailed rules drawn up under the Financial Services Act.

The note is aimed especially at smaller firms of auditors that do not specialise in financial businesses.

The note seeks to enforce rules on separating funds or share certificates held on behalf of clients from other assets through internal controls and accounting systems.

ROTHSCHILDS' INTERNATIONAL MONEY FUNDS

Invest in currencies - an excellent alternative to a deposit account

Current annual returns* on the Major Currencies are:
US\$ 7.0% £ 14.0% YEN 7.3%
DM 7.9% SwFr 7.8% ECU 9.3%

You may acquire and switch between 18 currencies at wholesale foreign exchange rates.

To obtain information including terms and conditions of investment in the Funds - Old Court International Reserves Limited and Old Court Currency Fund Limited - please complete the coupon below or telephone 071-634 283/4/5 during office hours.

To: Investment Marketing Department,
N M Rothschild Asset Management Ltd.,
Five Arrows House, St. Swinburn's Lane,
London EC4N 8NR

Name: _____
Address: _____

*The Old Court Money Funds are Covered by Authorisation and UK Registered Collective Investment Schemes.
*Based on figures for the 1989/1990 International Reserve Fund for 1989/1990. The return on all currencies is subject to a rise or fall in the value of the pound sterling in relation to the currencies of the countries in which the funds are invested.
(Member of IMA and IACU)

مكتبة من الأصغر

Bearing the burden of the fly-by-nights

COMMENT

Underwriting the losses of clients of investment firms which go bust is an expensive business. David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, underlined the difficulties yesterday when he argued, before a Commons select committee, that any increase in the £48,000 cap on payouts under the SIB scheme could prove an unbearable burden for small investment advisory firms.

The cost of the SIB scheme is expected to rise from £7 million last year to £12 million in the year to March 1991. The bulk of the payouts are to clients of the smallest firms.

Mr Walker acknowledged that clients would be best advised to limit their investment through any one firm to £50,000. Yet that is an unnecessarily tedious solution for investors dealing in millions of pounds.

A more satisfactory solution would be to devise a compensation scheme that interlinks the level of risk, the level of compensation available, the levy required to support it and the capital base of the firm undertak-

ing the transactions. The availability of large scale compensation for clients of ill-capitalised, inexperienced, fly-by-night advisers would be a rogues' charter. But it is hard to see why investors in well-capitalised advisory firms with a national reputation should not be covered by a scheme that guarantees they will not lose half of their life savings in the event of default.

Mr Walker has always been anxious that the SIB scheme should be devoid of cross subsidy. A tiered scheme would avoid that trap, and enable less risky firms to reinforce their good name by underwriting higher levels of compensation for their clients.

The scheme would undoubtedly be complex to set up and would be bound to create anomalies that might take years to put to rights. But the recent collapses of companies such as Levitt Group, where some individuals are likely to end up

hundreds of thousands out of pocket, illustrate the need to look again at the inadequacy of present arrangements.

Turning point

A temporary turning point may not be far off for the pound. The forward markets are now discounting a fall to DM2.79 in six months. That is near enough to the absolute bottom of sterling's ERM band to offer a virtually risk-free profit to anyone who believes that the government's ERM commitment will hold at least until mid-June. We are speaking here about the so-called "effective" floor against the peseta, currently at DM2.83, which rises and falls with the pound rather like the floor of an elevator. The ERM floor against

the mark at DM2.7780 is the solid, real thing — as is the government's commitment to hold it, at least for a respectable period. If sterling actually fell within the next six months to DM2.79 or anywhere near it, the government would do literally everything within its power, including even raising interest rates in the midst of a recession to defend sterling. A serious challenge to the ERM commitment is still quite likely between now and the next general election, but it is extremely unlikely to occur within the next six months. Since the markets will probably accept this in the near future, sterling is finally reaching the territory where the ERM does provide at least a short-term guarantee.

Only one external factor could undermine this reassurance. If

Germany tightened monetary policy within the next month or two a general realignment of ERM currencies could not be excluded. Provided the French agreed to a devaluation of the franc against the mark, Britain would certainly do the same thing, breathing heavy sighs of relief. The franc is nearer the bottom of its hands than the pound and its ERM divergence indicator is marginally worse than sterling's. To make matters worse, the French still seem to hold out that next month's meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers will agree on a package to support the dollar and take the upward pressure off the mark. This is extremely unlikely. In fact, a G-7 agreement reached in defiance of the Bundesbank's known opposition to such currency manipulation would probably make a rise in German rates even more likely. There is still a small chance, therefore, that the French resistance to an

ERM realignment might crumble. This would allow some extra freedom of manoeuvre for the pound.

Glass darkly

Four years ago St Helens Fawcote to find itself under siege. Sir Owen Green's tanks were at Pilkington's door, his BTR hoping to take advantage of the town glass manufacturer while it was still grappling with the problems of the previous recession. There is a sense of *deja vu* in the Lancashire air.

In lifting its residual 3.75 per cent stake to 4.5 per cent, BTR threatens to ruin Christmas lunch in St Helens for a second time. Could Sir Owen be contemplating another crack, with Pilkington, recently delivered of a 30 per cent slide in profits, looking vulnerable once more?

BTR may have simply seen the chance to average down its original buying price. But then, if he were thinking of bidding, Sir Owen would want us to think that, wouldn't he?

TEMPUS

United Scientific builds defences against defence

UNITED Scientific Holdings may be back in profit but on the evidence of its latest financial results Meggit did well to abort its £110 million for the company last year.

Pre-tax profits of £2.16 million for the year to the end of September, against losses of £3.7 million last year, give some indication of the progress that has been achieved. Losses per share have been reduced from 9.3p to 1.8p, while the total dividend is maintained at 2p with a final 1.5p.

But a 3p fall in USH shares to 45p, against Meggit's cash and paper offer of 151p, suggests that disenchantment with the company remains. In spite of the improvement, the outcome was well below expectations. County NatWest, for example, had pencilled in profits of £5.6 million.

The depth of problems at Avimo Singapore were the largest single factor in the disappointing results. Losses of £790,000 represent a turnaround of almost £4.2 million on the preceding year. It is unclear how much of the profits at Avimo Taunton, were accounted for by the release of past provisions.

Completion of the on-off-on sale of Optic Electronic Corporation, of Dallas, is undoubtedly a point in the company's favour, even though the consideration of \$36 million, with a further deferred consideration of \$2 million. This is substantially below the original offer of \$65 million and has resulted in an extraordinary charge of £2.7 million.

Exposure to the defence sector remains high but the company is making progress in its aim to achieve 30 per cent of turnover from other sources within three years. An order book of £200 million will should cushion the group through the transition.

Assuming no more funnies are pulled out of the hat pre-tax profits of £3.5 million look

possible this year, although earnings should remain neutral. Much more remains to be done before investors will feel ready to return.

City Site Estates

IT IS now a question of picking the survivors in the bombed out property sector. City Site Estates, the Glasgow group, can now be added to that list. City Site's likely survival was about the only positive point to emerge from results that simply demonstrated the depth of the recession.

An internal valuation of the property portfolio resulted in net assets per share falling 26 per cent to 237p. Profits have been the worse affected as trading profits become a thing of the distant past.

Last time's pre-tax profit of £6.9 million has been turned into a pre-tax loss of £980,000 for the year to September. An internal revaluation often raises eyebrows, but Louis Goodman, the managing director, appears to have been admirably conservative.

A sign of the company's confidence is its decision to dip into reserves to pay an increased final dividend of 0.96p (0.8p), boosting the total by an encouraging 20 per cent to 1.92p.

That confidence is based on rental income. Rents, currently running at an annualised rate of above £10 million, are finally getting close to covering the interest charge, which last year totalled £11.35 million. However, a further modest fall in net assets looks inevitable. At 115p, buying can be postponed.

Birmingham Mint and IMI

THE fact that IMI was able to gobble up 29.99 per cent of its target, Birmingham Mint, without breaking into a sweat at its higher offer price of 95p

on Tuesday gives a fair indication of the way the £13.6 million offer is likely to progress.

Birmingham Mint is sticking to its guns, describing the improved terms as "misleading", but when some of its largest shareholders so clearly disagree, the protestations sound a little hollow.

This is the story of two British companies fighting to win business in an increasingly competitive international industry, albeit a specialist one. Both must invest in high tech "plating" technology; IMI argues that a merger of the minting operations saves duplication of capital expenditure.

Birmingham Mint counters that this would create an unhealthy monopoly, with adverse implications for the Royal Mint, the initial purchaser of foreign coins minted in the UK, and therefore the taxpayer. The Office of Fair Trading has until Christmas Eve to weigh up the arguments. The fact that the Royal Mint has not publicly expressed concern suggests that competition factors will not play a role in the bid.

For Birmingham Mint shareholders, the important coins are those on the table from IMI. An offer of 11.9 times prospective earnings for a capex hungry mint and what can best be described as a rag-bag of engineering interests does not seem unreasonable.

Birmingham Mint's promise to raise the full-year dividend to 6.5p, the highlight of a largely uninspired defence, would leave dividend cover dangerously thin at 1.2 times. As the IMI camp has argued, this is likely to prove a one-off inducement.

Assuming the OFT does not hold up proceedings, Birmingham Mint shareholders should accept the 95p offer. But with the shares standing at 94p, selling in the market is an attractive alternative.

ICI and Solvay given heaviest EC fines

ICI and Solvay of Belgium have been given the heaviest fines ever imposed by the European Commission.

The two companies are guilty of rigging the EC market for soda ash, the key ingredient of glass, in a cartel that Brussels described as "abusive behaviour ultimately felt by millions of consumers".

ICI has been fined £12.07 million and Solvay £21 million, almost three times more than any penalty ever handed out by the Commission.

The severity of the fines shows a growing frustration at the way ICI and Solvay have not been deterred by softer penalties in the past. Together they have been fined eight times in the past five years for breaking EC competition rules.

"The level of the fines reflects the seriousness of the case and the determination of the Commission to ensure that industrial companies do not continue to flout the competition rules in a way which undermines the creation of a single market," the 17 EC commissioners said in a statement after taking the decision yesterday.

Soda ash accounts for up to 60 per cent of the raw material costs of glass making, the Commission thus maintained that the cartel had considerable side-effects on the motor and construction industries.

After several dawn raids on

their premises in March 1989, the two biggest firms in the European soda ash market were accused of continuing a deal, dating back 130 years, whereby they have kept off each other's territory, dividing up the market to ensure they were never in direct competition.

Solvay stayed out of the United Kingdom and Ireland, where ICI holds 92 per cent of the market. In return, ICI left Solvay to maintain its 70 per cent grip over much of western Europe.

The Commission accused them of meeting regularly to fix the market, despite the formal renunciation of their cartel when Britain joined the Community in 1973.

The German company, Chemische Fabrik Kalk, was fined £710,000 while three others — Rhone-Poulenc of France, Akzo of the Netherlands and Mathies and Weber of Germany — have been let off the hook.

But the most serious infringement by ICI and Solvay of EC competition rules, in Brussels's eyes, was a "top-slice" rebate used to maintain the loyalty of their customers.

ICI and Solvay would give discounts of up to 50 per cent on one-fifth of a customer's purchases if he agreed to buy the remaining bulk of his soda ash needs from them. Commission officials working on the case said this kept soda ash prices way above their market value. In some cases Solvay

had paid its clients to buy the extra 20-odd per cent, officials alleged.

In a parallel move, the Commission has blocked an attempt by six American soda producers to use their own existing export cartel, ANSAC, to break into the European market.

Brussels refused to waive the EC's competition rules for ANSAC, despite the Americans' claims that they could never counter the weight of ICI and Solvay unless they were allowed to act jointly.

The overall idea was to liberalise the entire market in one go, rather than allow for a patch-battle between European and American groups, one Brussels official said.

Yesterday's decision came after pressure from Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner for competition, amid intense and prolonged lobbying by the chemicals industry.

The move marks an intensification in the Commission's war against market rigging, which is seen as the chief enemy of the EC's deregulation programme in the run-up to the 1992 single market.

Sir Leon has said in the past he is eager to learn from American mistakes, where rapid deregulation has sometimes led to monopolistic cartels at the expense of the price-conscious consumer.

PETER GUILFORD
Brussels

American banks face financial meltdown if their reforms fail



Winning fall backing of Wall Street: John Reed, the chairman of Citicorp

ACTION by the Federal Reserve Board to cut interest rates underlines official concern over the American economy and the difficulties facing America's banks, which are collapsing at a rate not seen since the Thirties.

In the past six months, about 14,000 white collar staff jobs have been cut by America's leading banks and this will be the first year for three that less than 200 banks have failed.

More than 1,000 banks are included on the problem list of the senior regulator of the industry, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which faces its own financial difficulty as the insurer of customers' deposits of more than \$100,000.

The corporation forecasts that 170 banks with assets of \$70 billion will fail next year and it has only \$4 billion to ensure depositors do not lose their money.

Next month, the premium rises 60 per cent to 19.5 cents for each \$100 insured, but the corporation wants a premium of \$1 or \$1.25 for each \$100, which would cost the banks \$28 billion.

The move would be part of a strategy endorsed by President Bush to prevent any bank collapse being bailed out by the government. Taxpayer protection has become a priority for the president since the collapse of the savings and loan industry, which brought a \$500 billion bill that will not be paid off for a generation.

Fears of a big bank collapse were heightened recently after reports that American treasury officials had allocated \$1 billion of taxpayers' money to shore up the Bank of New England after many depositors withdrew funds. Both the bank and government denied the story. The Fed had tried to ease the money shortage by cutting the percentage banks need to hold as reserves against their deposits. The move allowed almost \$12 billion to flow back into the system, but industry experts said it was not enough.

Edward Yardeni, an economist at Prudential-Bache, the broker, estimates that the banks may need further provisions of \$100 billion against bad debts, which last year totalled \$2,017 billion. He said: "We believe, that in the worst case, 5 per cent of these loans will go bad, but the banks have a good cushion. They have put away \$50 billion in reserves, have \$236 billion in equity and other debt and no regulator would make them take a \$100 billion hit in one shot. In 1989, bad debt provisions totalled \$31 billion, other bad loans are likely to be spread over several years."

The collapse of the American property market, particularly on the east coast, is central to the problem. Land

and housing prices in many states have fallen by more than a quarter, driving scores of developers and construction firms out of business.

Last autumn, Citicorp insisted it would not have to cut its dividend or make additional provisions, since it had provided heavily for non-performing loans.

These provisions have clearly not been enough. Citicorp, America's largest bank, has construction loans of \$4.4 billion and commercial mortgages worth a further \$8.8 billion. It is said to have suffered problems with 25 per cent of the book, much of it in the eastern states. The problem sounds horrendous even by British standards, but it is symptomatic of the entire banking industry. Analysts

said yesterday that Citicorp's convalescence would take at least three years and that the bank may have to add more to loan loss reserves later. One said that before yesterday's action, the bank needed \$1 billion-\$1.5 billion in bad debt provisions and \$1.6 billion in fresh capital.

James Rosenberg, a banking analyst from Lehman Brothers in New York, goes further. He said: "Citicorp needs to raise at least \$2 billion in capital to make the provisions. It will do this at different times and by different methods."

The bank's 44 per cent dividend rate cut will put the shares on a yield of 7 per cent and make it slightly easier to raise fresh capital. It had been trying to raise money from an

issue of convertible preferred stock at a yield level below that of its ordinary shares.

The urgency needed to restore Citicorp's balance sheet is reflected in its redundancy programme. The bank is reducing staff by 8,000, including 3,600 this year at an exceptional cost of \$300 million. The cuts, 8.5 per cent of the total workforce, will save the bank \$800 million a year.

Unlike its smaller American rivals, like Security Pacific, the cuts will not mean a wholesale withdrawal from the international arena to protect interests at home. Citicorp is proud of its international branch network, believing it is one of the few banks in the world that can lay claim to the title "global".

Mr Rosenberg said: "Citicorp will continue to be the major international bank in the US. There will be selective withdrawals, but from unprofitable businesses."

Surprisingly perhaps, Wall Street is giving John Reed Citicorp's chairman, his full backing to complete the changes, and is not calling for a management reorganisation. "Reed is an extremely capable guy," said Mr Rosenberg. Analysts recognise that the problems in the banks are endemic and nobody has an easy solution.

The picture looks bleak for American banks, their employees and their suppliers next year. The big question remains whether investors will be prepared to support the huge capital raising issues needed to keep the big banks' balance sheets afloat. If not, the difficulties being felt could transform into a financial meltdown.

Even in these depressing days, however, there is a glimmer of hope to keep America's bankers alive. Most banks are so intent on preserving capital and shrinking their assets that the pressure has disappeared from the corporate lending market. Interest margins are beginning to widen once more, from the pitiful to the merely inadequate.

Many also believe that the bad debts, and the resulting capital shortage, will force the banks into a round of mergers. Chase Manhattan, Chemical Bank and Manufacturers Hanover are favourites in the search for partners. A series of mergers would also reduce the competition in the domestic banking market, the root cause of many of the industry's problems.

Before America's banks can prosper, they need to survive. It is far from certain all of them will.

By NEIL BENNETT and PHILIP ROBINSON

Skies no limit for smokers

THE coughing and wheezing seen in winning the battle of the fumes on transatlantic air routes, Virgin Atlantic, headed by Richard Branson, said yesterday that it has abandoned the experimental smoking ban that it introduced on some routes between Gatwick and Newark, New Jersey, during the summer. A spokesman for the airline said: "I don't want to say we were disappointed, but we weren't getting inundated with calls from people desperate to book the non-smoking flights." Virgin Atlantic's move is the latest example of the power of nicotine. The United States bans smoking on most long distance flights but it does allow smoking in the cockpit. An apparent burst of kindred spirits from the pilots of an American Airlines flight recently saved a smoker from prosecution after he was caught puffing discreetly in the lavatory. Airline officials admit that they do not always enforce the ban. The chairman of American Airlines told the American government in a letter recently: "No service is anxious to quarrel with its customers."

PHILIP ROBINSON
New York

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Savage food for thought

TERRY Savage, the wealthy, glamorous, newspaper and television consumer campaigner, is causing a stir about becoming the first woman executive to join the board of McDonald's, the hamburger chain. Academics have called the appointment an outrageous conflict of interest for the financial journalist, aged 46, whose book, *Terry Savage Talks Money*, is on the best-seller list and who drives to work in a restored blue Rolls-Royce. Ms Savage says that joining the board of McDonald's gives her a tremendous opportunity to participate in the actions of a corporation that symbolises all that is best in America. But at least one newspaper that syndicates her column is wary of the £48,000 a year position, and the potential dangers it may present in independent analysis of consumer issues. WBBM, the Chicago television station on which Ms Savage does a daily evening consumer advice slot, has decided there is no potential conflict. But a station spokesman said Ms Savage would be banned from talking about McDonald's, its suppliers, or its competitors. One seasoned newspaperman said: "I've

been in journalism for 31 years and I've never had anyone think about accepting a directorship. Ms Savage was unavailable for comment.

Tears for cheers

RECESSION in the northeast of America is hard to discern in Manhattan, aside from plunging apartment prices. You can always have a table at a fancy restaurant at rather less than 12 hours notice, normally hail a taxi in the rain



and never have to queue for the weight-lifting machines in \$2,000-a-hour health clubs. But the most dramatic signal that the party's over comes from Absolut, the Swedish vodka maker whose beverage was the chic tipple of the upwardly mobile. Sales were pushed up a dizzy 42 per cent, between 1985 and 1988, ranking Absolut the No. 1 imported vodka with 57 per cent of the market. But with the Wall Street job loss tally expected to top 50,000 this year, Absolut is predicting a sales growth of no more than 10 per cent, and is said to be thinking of repositioning the product to cope with the new depression.

Winning lunches

PUBLIC relations executives are still grooming clients to make the most of the power lunch, in spite of a 50 per cent cut back in big takeover deals this year. According to one, the late lunch entrance, designed to make an impression, is out. The agency advises an early arrival to prevent clients gossiping at the bar with the competition. Never spoil the meal by allowing vulgar paperwork at the table, give the maître d'hôtel a signed blank credit card voucher before the meal, and never deliver the main point of the lunch until well into the main course. According to the experts, you will never have your own way if the denouement is interrupted by the waiter giving his sales pitch with a list of daily specials.

Judges clash

TWO judges are at loggerheads over a free speech issue involving filming of *Bonfire of the Vanities*, a racially sensitive film. New Jersey's chief justice has "had his wrist slapped by the federal judge for banning the filming of the scene in a court house that depicts blacks rioting in a courtroom. Chief Justice Rob-

NDUP
dings)
vidend
erests in steel and
cutting its interim
a swing from a
£289,000 pre-tax
its core activities
the result of an
steels and machine
rates. The intere
n compared with
the interim trading
£2.8 million, fan
that the worst is
ayout at
o Magic
agic Leisure, the
ital chain, has re
changed, pre-tax
£123,700 in the
to end-September,
the dollar, in
spending. But the
of shares issued
past year and a
rate has reduced
per share from
0.43p. There is
merid dividend.
t Ball
has confirmed the
38 per cent slide in
to end-September,
to £2.6 million and
per cent to 29.2
3.7p.
o new orders from
ith Water worth a
"should ensure no
nine months. The
m helps
ing rise
ION's contribu
B. to Equineer
American com
Share market has
teristics. Industri
sight among group
a dividend profit
n £1.1 million
per share grew 13
14.2 per cent to
the market will p
ruling
rison
ills to
22,000
aditors
B. ROCLAYS
ASSENT
NOTICE TO
ARDHOLDERS

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Singapore	1.7230-1.7250	Germany	1.4790-1.4790	Belgium (Cont)	11.025-11.025
Australia	2.7000-2.7010	Switzerland	1.2880-1.2880	Hong Kong	7.8008-7.8018
Canada	1.2120-1.2120	Denmark	1.2120-1.2120	Spain	130.80-131.00
France	1.1672-1.1682	Netherlands	1.0540-1.0540	Portugal	34.50-34.75
Sweden	5.5850-5.5860	Japan	153.90-153.90	Australia	10.58-10.60
Monrovia	5.9120-5.9170				

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exim.

MONEY MARKETS

Rate Index %: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Rate 14		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Overnight Market Lending %		Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Overnight 14% 14% 14% 14% 14% 14% 14%		Dollar	7.0-8.0	6.7-7.1	6.7-7.1	7.7-7.7
Treasury bills (Discount %)		£/Sterling	8-8 1/2			
Savings: 2 mth - 13% 8 mth - 13%		Deutschmark	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2
2 mth - 13% 3 mth - 13% 4 mth - 13%		Swiss Franc	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2
Prime Banks bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 13%-13 1/2%		Costa Rican	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
2 mth: 13%-13 1/2% 3 mth: 13%-13 1/2%		Colombian	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
4 mth: 13%-13 1/2% 6 mth: 13%-13 1/2%		Colombian	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
8 mth: 14% 12 mth: 14%		Colombian	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
Interest (Rate %): 1 mth: 13% 3 mth: 13%		Colombian	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10
Overnight open 14% 14% 14% 14% 14%		Colombian	10-10	10-10	10-10	10-10

1 mtc 14-14-14	2 mtc 14-14-14	3 mtc 14-14-14
1 mtc 13-12-12	2 mtc 13-12-12	3 mtc 12-12-12

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)

Sovereigns: \$369.00-390.00 (1201.00-202.00)
Kingstons: \$378.50-379.50 (\$195.75-196.75)
Half Kings: \$690.00-691.00 (1201.50-202.50)
American Eagles: \$371.00-372.00 (1201.50-202.50)
New Sovereigns: \$391.00-392.00 (\$214.00-215.00)

Scheme I: 15.06 per cent. Schemes II & III: 15.32 per cent. Reference rate Sept. 28, 1980 to Oct. 31, 1980 .
Scheme IV & V: 14.154 per cent.

Open High Low Close Vol					Open High Low Close Vol				
FT-SE 100					Three Month ECU				
May 01	2190.0	2194.0	2185.0	2194.0	3530	May 01	60.00	60.00	Previous open interest 975
Jun 01	2225.0	2225.0	2190.0	2194.0	3574	Jun 01	60.00	60.00	Previous open interest 975
Three Month Sterling					US Treasury				
May 01	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	4815	May 01	97-23	97-23	Previous open interest 1000
Jun 01	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	4981	Jun 01	97-23	97-23	Previous open interest 1000
Three Month Eurodollar					Long Gilt				
May 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	May 01	97-18	97-18	Previous open interest 20341
Jun 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	Jun 01	97-18	97-18	Previous open interest 20341
Three Month Eurodollar					Japanese Gov Bond				
May 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	May 01	96-82	96-82	Previous open interest 5577
Jun 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	Jun 01	96-82	96-82	Previous open interest 5577
Three Month Eurodollar					German Gov Bond				
May 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	May 01	93.00	93.00	Previous open interest 13974
Jun 01	92.00	92.00	92.00	92.00	4981	Jun 01	93.00	93.00	Previous open interest 13974

[illegible][illegible]

1990		Price		Change		1989	
High	Low	Bid	Offer	Change	%	High	Low
150	149					150	149
149	148					149	148
148	147					148	147
147	146					147	146
146	145					146	145
145	144					145	144
144	143					144	143
143	142					143	142
142	141					142	141
141	140					141	140
140	139					140	139
139	138					139	138
138	137					138	137
137	136					137	136
136	135					136	135
135	134					135	134
134	133					134	133
133	132					133	132
132	131					132	131
131	130					131	130
130	129					130	129
129	128					129	128
128	127					128	127
127	126					127	126
126	125					126	125
125	124					125	124
124	123					124	123
123	122					123	122
122	121					122	121
121	120					121	120
120	119					120	119
119	118					119	118
118	117					118	117
117	116					117	116
116	115					116	115
115	114					115	114
114	113					114	113
113	112					113	112
112	111					112	111
111	110					111	110
110	109					110	109
109	108					109	108
108	107					108	107
107	106					107	106
106	105					106	105
105	104					105	104
104	103					104	103
103	102					103	102
102	101					102	101
101	100					101	100
100	99					100	99
99	98					99	98
98	97					98	97
97	96					97	96
96	95					96	95
95	94					95	94
94	93					94	93
93	92					93	92
92	91					92	91
91	90					91	90
90	89					90	89
89	88					89	88
88	87					88	87
87	86					87	

[illegible]

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	Building, Roads	
2	Fletcher King	Engineering	
3	Sou & New (as)	Engineering	
4	TSD (as)	Bank, Discount	
5	Nat West (as)	Bank, Discount	
6	Kingsley (as)	Drugs, Stores	
7	Honda Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
8	Allied Text	Textiles	
9	Delta	Electronics	
10	RAT (as)	Textiles	
11	Venture Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
12	Greenland Unit	Transport	
13	Laporte (as)	Chemicals, Plastics	
14	Orford Insurance	Insurance	
15	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	
16	Gr Portland	Property	
17	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	
18	Guinness (as)	Breweries	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	Hotel, Caterers	
20	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D	
21	Union Doc	Bank, Discount	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	Industrial E-K	
23	Adwest	Industrial A-D	
24	Logica	Electronics	
25	McKesson	Industrial L-R	
26	Com Group	Industrial L-R	
27	Ind-Sol	Industrial L-R	
28	Slough Estates (as)	Property	
29	Securin Serv	Industrial S-Z	
30	Barlow Rand	Industrial A-D	
31	Lucas (as)	Industrial, Aircraft	
32	Speyward	Property	
33	Scars (as)	Drugs, Stores	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	Building, Roads	
35	Aerospac Eng	Industrial A-D	
36	Brown (as)	Drugs, Stores	
37	General Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
38	Smithfield Food	Industrial S-Z	
39	Starhouse (as)	Drugs, Stores	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	Drugs, Stores	
41	Land Ser (as)	Property	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	Industrial E-K	
43	SA Breweries	Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
-----	---------	--------------

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

UNDATED

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Good gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10. Dealings end December 28. Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26)

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

No.	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Barrett's	
2	Fletcher King	
3	Sou & New (as)	
4	TSD (as)	
5	Nat West (as)	
6	Kingsley (as)	
7	Honda Motor	
8	Allied Text	
9	Delta	
10	RAT (as)	
11	Venture Chem	
12	Greenland Unit	
13	Laporte (as)	
14	Orford Insurance	
15	De La Rue	
16	Gr Portland	
17	Hickson	
18	Guinness (as)	
19	Trustee Pl (as)	
20	Broken Hill	
21	Union Doc	
22	Hammam Credit (as)	
23	Adwest	
24	Logica	
25	McKesson	
26	Com Group	
27	Ind-Sol	
28	Slough Estates (as)	
29	Securin Serv	
30	Barlow Rand	
31	Lucas (as)	
32	Speyward	
33	Scars (as)	
34	BFB Ltd (as)	
35	Aerospac Eng	
36	Brown (as)	
37	General Motor	
38	Smithfield Food	
39	Starhouse (as)	
40	Smith WH 'A' (as)	
41	Land Ser (as)	
42	Hawker Suddby (as)	
43	SA Breweries	
44	Sainsbury J (as)	

BUILDING, ROADS			
136	W. Baker	65	200
140	W. Baker	217	200
154	W. Baker	217	200
156	W. Baker	217	200
158	W. Baker	217	200
160	W. Baker	217	200
162	W. Baker	217	200
164	W. Baker	217	200
166	W. Baker	217	200
168	W. Baker	217	200
170	W. Baker	217	200
172	W. Baker	217	200
174	W. Baker	217	200
176	W. Baker	217	200
178	W. Baker	217	200
180	W. Baker	217	200
182	W. Baker	217	200
184	W. Baker	217	200
186	W. Baker	217	200
188	W. Baker	217	200
190	W. Baker	217	200
192	W. Baker	217	200
194	W. Baker	217	200
196	W. Baker	217	200
198	W. Baker	217	200
200	W. Baker	217	200
202	W. Baker	217	200
204	W. Baker	217	200
206	W. Baker	217	200
208	W. Baker	217	200
210	W. Baker	217	200
212	W. Baker	217	200
214	W. Baker	217	200
216	W. Baker	217	200
218	W. Baker	217	200
220	W. Baker	217	200
222	W. Baker	217	200
224	W. Baker	217	200
226	W. Baker	217	200
228	W. Baker	217	200
230	W. Baker	217	200
232	W. Baker	217	200
234	W. Baker	217	200
236	W. Baker	217	200
238	W. Baker	217	200
240	W. Baker	217	200
242	W. Baker	217	200
244	W. Baker	217	200
246	W. Baker	217	200
248	W. Baker	217	200
250	W. Baker	217	200
252	W. Baker	217	200
254	W. Baker	217	200
256	W. Baker	217	200
258	W. Baker	217	200
260	W. Baker	217	200
262	W. Baker	217	200
264	W. Baker	217	200
266	W. Baker	217	200
268	W. Baker	217	200
270	W. Baker	217	200
272	W. Baker	217	200
274	W. Baker	217	200
276	W. Baker	217	200
278	W. Baker	217	200
280	W. Baker	217	200
282	W. Baker	217	200
284	W. Baker	217	200
286	W. Baker	217	200
288	W. Baker	217	200
290	W. Baker	217	200
292	W. Baker	217	200
294	W. Baker	217	200
296	W. Baker	217	200
298	W. Baker	217	200
300	W. Baker	217	200
302	W. Baker	217	200
304	W. Baker	217	200
306	W. Baker	217	200
308	W. Baker	217	200
310	W. Baker	217	200
312	W. Baker	217	200
314	W. Baker	217	200
316	W. Baker	217	200
318	W. Baker	217	200
320	W. Baker	217	200
322	W. Baker	217	200
324	W. Baker	217	200
326	W. Baker	217	200
328	W. Baker	217	200
330	W. Baker	217	200
332	W. Baker	217	200
334	W. Baker	217	200
336	W. Baker	217	200
338	W. Baker	217	200
340	W. Baker	217	200
342	W. Baker	217	200
344	W. Baker	217	200
346	W. Baker	217	200
348	W. Baker	217	200
350	W. Baker	217	200
352	W. Baker	217	200
354	W. Baker	217	200
356	W. Baker	217	200
358	W. Baker	217	200
360	W. Baker	217	200
362	W. Baker	217	200
364	W. Baker	217	200
366	W. Baker	217	200
368	W. Baker	217	200
370	W. Baker	217	200
372	W. Baker	217	200
374	W. Baker	217	200
376	W. Baker	217	200
378	W. Baker	217	200
380	W. Baker	217	200
382	W. Baker	217	200
384	W. Baker	217	200
386	W. Baker	217	200
388	W. Baker	217	200
390	W. Baker	217	200
392	W. Baker	217	200
394	W. Baker	217	200
396	W. Baker	217	200
398	W. Baker	217	200
400	W. Baker	217	200
402	W. Baker	217	200
404	W. Baker	217	200
406	W. Baker	217	200
408	W. Baker	217	200
410	W. Baker	217	200
412	W. Baker	217	200
414	W. Baker	217	200
416	W. Baker	217	200
418	W. Baker	217	200
420	W. Baker	217	200
422	W. Baker	217	200
424	W. Baker	217	200
426	W. Baker	217	200
428	W. Baker	217	200
430	W. Baker	217	200
432	W. Baker	217	200
434	W. Baker	217	200
436	W. Baker	217	200
438	W. Baker	217	200
440	W. Baker	217	200
442	W. Baker	217	200
444	W. Baker	217	200
446	W. Baker	217	200
448	W. Baker	217	200
450	W. Baker	217	200
452	W. Baker	217	200
454	W. Baker	217	200
456	W. Baker	217	200
458	W. Baker	217	200
460	W. Baker	217	200
462	W. Baker	217	200
464	W. Baker	217	200
466	W. Baker	217	200
468	W. Baker	217	200
470	W. Baker	217	200
472	W. Baker	217	200
474	W. Baker	217	200
476	W. Baker	217	200
478	W. Baker	217	200
480	W. Baker	217	200
482	W. Baker	217	200
484	W. Baker	217	200
486	W. Baker	217	200
488	W. Baker	217	200
490	W. Baker	217	200
492	W. Baker	217	200
494	W. Baker	217	200
496	W. Baker	217	200
498	W. Baker	217	200
500	W. Baker	217	200

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
Strike	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
ATA 100	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 110	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 130	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 140	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 150	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 160	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 170	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 180	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 190	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 200	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 210	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 220	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 230	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 240	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 250	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 260	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 270	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 280	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 290	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 300	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 310	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 320	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 330	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 340	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 350	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 360	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 370	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 380	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 390	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 400	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 410	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 420	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 430	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 440	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 450	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 460	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 470	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 480	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 490	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 500	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 510	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 520	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 530	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 540	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 550	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 560	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 570	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 580	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 590	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 600	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 610	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 620	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 630	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 640	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 650	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 660	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 670	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 680	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 690	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 700	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 710	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 720	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 730	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 740	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 750	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 760	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 770	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 780	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 790	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 800	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 810	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 820	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 830	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 840	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 850	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 860	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 870	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 880	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 890	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 900	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 910	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 920	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 930	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 940	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 950	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 960	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 970	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 980	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 990	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ATA 1000	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

Shares take heart from cut in US interest rates

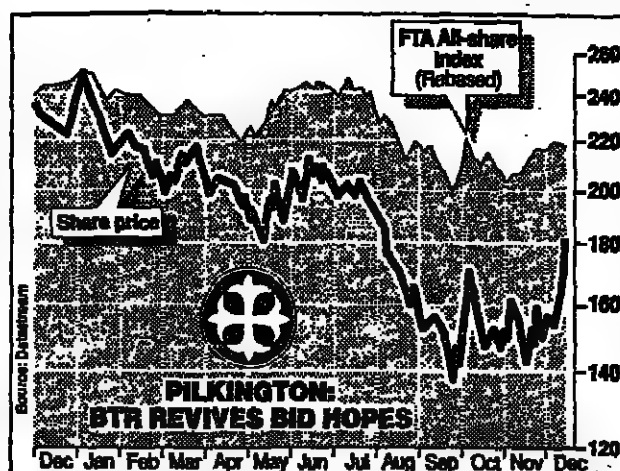
SHARES responded belatedly to the softening in American interest rates, closing near their best levels of the day in this trading.

The FT-SE 100 index recovered from a hesitant start to finish 16.9 higher at 2,178.7. The FT 30 index rose 12.9 to 1,707.1 on a turnover of 509 million shares. Government securities ended 1/4 firm at the longer end.

Some brokers were optimistic about the equity market's outlook for next year, although some of the more experienced hands have decided to postpone any predictions until the troubles in the Gulf are settled. The latest fall in the gross domestic product underlined the feeling that the recession is continuing to deepen.

The Cookson industrial materials group rose 4p to 104p despite a profits downgrade by Hoare Govett, the broker, of £10 million to £100 million for the current year. But Hoare is keeping to its prediction of £82 million for next year. Hoare has also downgraded its estimates for Raine Industries, 1/4p cheaper at 96p.

Electricity shares attracted selective support on further talk about state-building after Welsh Water's purchase of a 10 per cent holding in South Wales Electricity, unchanged at 167p. Eastern firm 14p to 143p. East Midlands 3p to 151p. Midland 2p to 175p. After 17p, Midlands 1p to 145p. Northern 2p to 146p. North West 1p to 146p. South West 1p to 151p. Yorkshire 1p to 169p. While London was unchanged at 146p and Southern slipped 1p to 146p. Grand Metropolitan, the international food, drink and



leisure group, continued to go from strength to strength, still benefiting from its recent American roadshow. The shares finished 5p dearer at 671p. The GrandMet price has now risen by about 10 per cent in little more than a week. The group has applied for an ADR facility and trading will

be vulnerable to a bid. The appointment of Alan Jackson as BTR's chief executive has led the market to believe that the group will be taking a more aggressive stance and that it may soon hit the acquisition trail. BTR rose 3p to 335p.

There was little relief for

Glaxo, down a further 8p at 846p, after criticism this week from one of its biggest rivals, Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group. Astra claims that sales of Zantac, Glaxo's best-selling anti-ulcer drug, are showing signs of slowing down. Losec, Astra's rival treatment, is expected to receive official approval for marketing in Japan next week. Wellcome stood out with a rise of 20p to 462p after a presentation for analysts.

A bear raid on Ford Motor, the USM property developer, saw the value of

company halved at one stage. The price touched 224p before rallying to close 7p lower at 35p amid claims that the group was having difficulty in refinancing some of its larger projects. Irvine Selar, the chairman, said there was no truth in these rumours and that he was confident of the success of each of the group's developments.

Meanwhile, a clutch of disappointing figures underlined the problems facing the property sector. City Site Estates has plunged into the red with a loss of £1 million against a profit of 27 million. The increase in the dividend enabled the shares to hold steady at 115p.

Full-year figures from Capra Estates, unchanged at 14p, also showed a loss of £3.7 million compared with a profit of £3.9 million. Dwyer firm 1p to 128p despite a drop in taxable profits from £3.2 million to £264,000.

Several blue-chip companies were depressed by unsuccessful attempts to place large issues of stock. Ladbroke, the hotels, property and betting chain, lost a lead and closed 4p lower at 254p after a profits downgrade by Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

Attempts to place 9 million shares in Prudential Corporation also appeared to have failed with less than 2 million shares traded. The reports followed suggestions that the group has failed so far to find a buyer for its estate agency chain which it has put up for sale. Prudential finished 1p lower at 199p.

Mosaic Investments responded to a mention in this column with a rise of 13p to 283p.

MICHAEL CLARK

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily %	Yearly %	Daily %	Yearly %	Daily %	Yearly %	Daily %	Yearly %
The World	588.3	0.6	-30.3	0.6	-21.3	0.3	-18.5		
(free)	112.5	0.6	-30.3	0.7	-21.3	0.3	-18.5		
Europe	1019.8	0.6	-34.5	0.8	-28.9	0.3	-21.6		
(free)	104.8	0.6	-34.5	0.7	-28.9	0.3	-21.7		
Europe	912.5	0.2	-18.9	-0.1	-17.3	-0.1	-3.9		
(free)	132.6	0.2	-18.9	-0.3	-18.8	-0.1	-2.9		
Nth America	422.2	0.6	-21.5	0.2	-0.0	0.2	-0.0		
Nordest	111.8	0.4	-28.8	0.0	-23.8	0.1	-14.6		
(free)	182.7	0.1	-22.3	-0.4	-17.6	-0.3	-7.0		
Pacific	228.0	0.9	-40.0	1.7	-37.6	0.8	-30.1		
Far East	328.7	0.9	-43.3	1.8	-36.6	0.8	-30.1		
Australia	230.0	0.5	-33.8	0.0	-18.7	0.2	-20.7		
Austria	1378.9	0.1	-7.3	0.2	-2.9	0.5	11.1		
Belgium	714.2	0.1	-27.5	0.4	-25.3	0.8	-13.1		
Canada	429.4	0.4	-28.4	0.1	-15.5	0.1	-15.5		
Denmark	104.8	-0.6	-16.8	-1.3	-13.3	-1.1	-0.4		
Finland	85.2	0.5	-43.4	0.2	-38.8	0.2	-32.2		
(free)	88.5	0.0	-39.9	-0.3	-38.1	-0.3	-28.0		
France	599.4	0.4	-25.8	0.0	-22.5	0.0	-11.2		
Germany	725.5	-0.9	-20.9	-1.5	-17.2	-1.2	-5.3		
Hong Kong	1961.1	1.0	-11.8	0.7	5.8	0.7	5.9		
Japan	3448.8	0.2	-30.7	-0.2	-28.8	-0.1	-17.0		
Netherlands	745.1	0.6	-21.1	1.1	-17.4	0.3	-33.0		
New Zealand	61.7	2.2	-46.8	1.3	-38.5	1.9	-39.9		
Norway	1137.7	-0.3	-16.2	-0.9	-10.8	-0.8	1.5		
(free)	199.4	-0.3	-14.6	-0.9	-9.8	-0.8	2.2		

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

هكذا من الأصل

c. £50,000 + benefits

Publishing

London

Group Business Development Manager

Prominent, highly successful and well resourced business publisher with a range of market leading titles, seeks a talented marketing professional to develop and drive its UK and European expansion programme. A new high profile position working with the Board and established European partners. Excellent career prospects.

THE ROLE

- Maximising profit and market position in recruitment and display advertising and circulation through creative and innovative use of marketing data.
- Developing a cohesive Group marketing and public relations plan.
- Working with Board to develop long term strategy. Identifying new business opportunities including joint ventures and acquisitions.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate, early thirties, with classic blue chip marketing training. Record of achievement in line marketing and corporate business development roles, ideally in publishing.
- Pragmatic, commercial and hands-on. Financially literate with structured and analytical approach to strategic and market planning.
- Personable and able communicator. Capacity to progress rapidly within the Group to the highest levels of management.

London 071-973 0889
Manchester 061-941 3818

Selector Europe
A Spencer Stuart Company

Please reply, enclosing full details to:
Selector Europe, Ref S2201201,
16 Connaught Place,
London, W2 2ED.

c. £45,000 + benefits

Luxury Branded Goods

London

Merchandising Director

Respected international group with enviable heritage, renowned brand names and acknowledged market strength requires an exceptional merchandising specialist to position its premier brand as a world leader of prestige knitwear, clothing and accessories. First class opportunities for career development and promotion.

THE ROLE

- Establish the signature and distinctive style of the brand.
- Coordinate and control the in-house design, styling, event, sourcing and range development. Lead and inspire a team which sets an uncompromising quality standards.
- Work closely with sales and marketing, developing effective international marketing and promotional support to achieve exclusive positioning.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate calibre, 40-45 years old. Impassioned with design and fashion trends. Outstanding record in exclusive branded goods merchandising or buying.
- Strong and credible to influence at all levels, apply the highest standards and win commitment and support from creative people.
- Drive, creativity and ambition. Aesthetic flair coupled with commercial awareness and well developed interpersonal skills. International experience with ability in a European language an advantage.

London 071-973 0889
Manchester 061-941 3818

Selector Europe
A Spencer Stuart Company

Please reply, enclosing full details to:
Selector Europe, Ref S2211201,
16 Connaught Place,
London, W2 2ED.

UK SALES MANAGER

Widely-used capital equipment
West of Scotland base
c.£40,000 + bonus + car

A EUROPEAN AND WORLD LEADER in its particular sector, this established British-owned company is continuing to expand at a rapid pace. Its products are widely in demand by industry, commerce, petrochemical, construction and leisure sectors. Planning for the future has created a new and unusual opportunity for a Manager who, reporting to the MD, will take overall charge of all UK sales and servicing, with a staff of around 75. You'll take a strategic view of business prospects, seeking out new sales opportunities,

develop further the existing business and become involved in new acquisitions. A priority will be the ongoing development of the sales/service team.

Probably a qualified engineer aged 35+, you must be a highly commercial mature executive with a successful management track record in capital equipment sales or hire. A keen sense of financial awareness is a prerequisite.

Salary is negotiable around £40,000 + bonus + car together with the range of benefits expected at this level and excellent career development opportunities.

Please send full career details, quoting Ref: G2060/ST, to Steve Higgins, PA Consulting Group, Advertising and Communications, Number Two Blythwood Square, Glasgow G2 4AD. All replies will be forwarded to our client. Please list separately any companies to which they should not be sent.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment - Human Resource Consultancy - Advertising and Communications

Formed in 1971

A world-leader in high-technology market research

Offices in Denmark, Munich, Paris, San Jose, Tokyo and Seoul

World-wide client base

Services:
Research Reports
Customer Support
DD Update
Library and Database facilities

Industry Coverage:
Semiconductors
Electronics
Telecommunications
Computers
Peripherals

COMPUTER INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS WHAT NEXT?

INDUSTRY ANALYST

The continued growth of our Computer Industry Group has led to several challenging and rewarding career opportunities for Industry Analysts, based at our UK office in Denham, Middlesex.

You will be working with a team of respected professionals who, through a variety of research methods and incisive analysis, deliver to clients world-wide a highly regarded and influential third-party perspective of the fast-moving and changing European computer industry and market.

An IT industry professional, you already have an in-depth understanding of the market, particularly PCs, gained through relevant, quality experience in product marketing or product development. This is complemented by well-developed analytical ability, plus clear, concise written and oral communication skills. Your contribution, either as an individual or as part of the team, will cover all areas of the

Group's output - from newsletters and research reports to client enquiries and presentations. Furthermore you are able to operate successfully at the highest levels, establishing yourself as a key industry information source. Fluency or a working knowledge of a second European language would be an advantage.

For the right people, the rewards are excellent and include an attractive salary, car, large company benefits, and relocation where appropriate. Plus for those with ambition, outstanding opportunities for career development.

In the first instance, please send a comprehensive CV, including current salary details to, Tony Tyler, European Human Resources and Administration Manager, Dataquest Europe Limited, Russell House, Broadwater Park, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5HH.

Applications must be received by 2nd January 1991.

Dataquest

For a significant, private, wholesaler of electrical and related security products with outlets throughout the UK, a steady growth record and a medium term objective of mainland European development.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Electrical Wholesaling
c £40,000

QMS Recruitment

The need is to bring a more positive contribution to leadership and management. Identify and develop growth opportunities and ensure sound commercial decisions over product mix and stock holding. Candidates, probably over 40, will have a proven management record in multi location, wholesaling activities with a strong preference for experience in electrical or security related products. Remuneration is negotiable and includes a profit related element. Excellent benefits include car, and relocation assistance if relevant to the North West of England.

Please reply in strict confidence giving details of age, experience, qualifications and earnings quoting reference nos 1105/ST to: Peter M. Small at: QMS Recruitment, The Crescent, King Street, Leicester LE1 6DL.

HUE

FASHION LEGWEAR
U.K. GENERAL MANAGER

HUE is recognised as America's leading fashion legwear company. HUE, which is renowned for its creativity and ability to interpret fashion trends, sells to most of the better retailers in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Following a successful U.K. market study, HUE is now in the process of setting up a subsidiary here. We need a General Manager, ideally with start-up experience, to take charge of the U.K. company.

The successful candidate must have extensive fashion experience working, at a senior level, with the better retailers. A legwear, or accessory background would be useful.

It is possible that this position could be expanded to, President HUE International, if the successful candidate has relevant international experience.

The salary and employment package will be appropriate for the position and subject to individual negotiation. Also, independent agents are invited to contact us to discuss possible associations.

Please reply to HUE's U.K. Consultants:



Frank Friend,
FRANK FRIEND ASSOCIATES,
Televison House, Mount Street,
Manchester M2 5WS.

SHIP MANAGER (TECHNICAL) BIBBY LINE LTD

A vacancy exists for a Ship Manager (Technical) or Assistant Ship Manager (Technical), according to experience, within the Shipping Division of Bibby Line Limited, based at our modern office location in Liverpool.

The successful candidate will preferably be aged 30-40, qualified to at least DTP Class One Motor, with past experience as Chief Engineer on LPG/Chemical/Product vessels, and willing to develop a career in all aspects of ship operation/technical management. Experience in modern ship management and computer practices would be an advantage.

Initial Salary negotiable. Benefits package includes a car, contributory pension scheme, Private Patients Plan relocation assistance as appropriate.

Apply in Writing with c.v. to:
Mr P.G.W. Vickers, Technical Manager
Bibby Line Limited
Norwich House, Water Street,
Liverpool L2 8UW

HIGH CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

London, Epsom, Bushey, Milton Keynes, Kings Langley.
We are looking for an experienced curry chef & tandoori chef.
All written applications to Box No 2337
Times Newspapers
PO Box 484
1 Virginia Street
London E1 9DD

Administrative Services Manager

CEL COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISES LIMITED

CEL is a rapidly expanding management services company delivering consultancy, research, training and project management across a wide range of business disciplines. Our client base is national, ranging from Charities through Local Authorities to International Financial Institutions, but is mainly concentrated in the 'Not for Profit' sector. We are located between Manchester and Sheffield in the Peak District National Park.

The Administrative Services Manager will run our computer based services to Clients. These currently include complex database management, payment processing through BACS and mail order sales administration. She will also contribute to the development and sale of new computer based services. The post carries Department Manager status and membership of the Company's 6 person management team.

The person we are looking for will have a degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline (ideally applied computing). She will have at least two years experience of management in an information technology environment. She will be able to demonstrate a fair job analysis and implementation of computer solutions coupled with a methodical approach to data processing. Experience of people management is desirable. Above all she will want to contribute to the growth of a young and dynamic business.

For an application form and details write to:

Collective Enterprises Limited, Blacklow House,
Mill Street, Glossop SK13 8PT

or ring Julie Atherton on:
Glossop (04574) 68063

Deadline for completed applications - 2nd Jan 1991
We hope to interview in mid January.

CEL aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

DUTCH CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS B.V.

D.C.C. B.V. are looking for personnel in engineering & design work for an oil and gas plant in the Middle East, offshore and onshore.

For this project we require resumes of suitably qualified engineering staff.

The locations are:
1. In the Netherlands
2. Long term in the Middle East

PERSONNEL REQUIRED

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Project Manager | Senior Process Engineer |
| Construction Engineer | Quantity Surveyor |
| Construction Supervisor | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Contract Administrator | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Senior Mechanical Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Mechanical Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Senior Electrical Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Electrical Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Senior Control Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Control Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Planning Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Senior Instrument Control Engineer | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Senior Engineering Draughtsman | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Technical Clerk | Senior Quantity Surveyor |
| Engineering Record Administrator | Senior Quantity Surveyor |

Should you be interested, please send us via telex a copy of your resume as soon as possible.

DUTCH CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS
Postbus 5
2288 EE RUSWIJK
THE NETHERLANDS
TELEFAX NO. 070-3991501

GENERAL MANAGER

(Nell Gwynn House, Chelsea)
required for this luxury block of flats.

To be responsible for administrative and accounting staff, letting office staff, portage, services, and to promote luxury letting service.

Salary £25,000 + pension + car + BUPA + incentive bonus.

Previous experience in property management preferred.

Apply in writing to Managing Director of the Maintenance Trustees, Fineman Lever, 74 Seymour Place, London W1H 5DB

PERSONAL ASSISTANT - SAUDI ARABIA

A Saudi Businessman with international connections is seeking a male* graduate in his mid-30's as his Personal Assistant Secretary. This is a demanding position requiring flexibility and the freedom to travel extensively. The successful applicant will have a sound educational background, impeccable references and proven first-class secretarial skills including excellent organisational ability. In addition to English he will be fluent in at least French or German and preferably both languages. Experience of the Middle East would be an advantage. The post is based in Jeddah on a bachelor basis, but there would be frequent and extensive worldwide travel. The employment package will reflect the demanding nature of the position.

Applications together with a comprehensive C.V., a recent photograph and the names of at least two referees.

Please reply to box No: 2328

*As exempt under Section 10 of the S.D.A.

Is your Career at a Crossroads?

If you're looking for a new career direction and don't know which way to turn - look to CHUSID LANDER. For over 30 years we've been helping professional men and women, earning £20k plus, to improve their career prospects and get better jobs. So whether you're unemployed, facing redundancy or stuck in that rut - call us to arrange an early confidential appointment with no obligation, or send us your CV. (24 hr answerphone in all offices).



LONDON 01-580 6771 CHERPHEM 0494 6570 MANCHESTER 061-220 0880 LEES 0532-42612
GLASGOW 041-332 892 BIRMINGHAM 01-432 8396 NEWCASTLE 0632 62836 DUBLIN 01-432 8396
© CHUSID LANDER 35/37 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5AF

ASSISTANT

With legal experience wanted on part time basis.
Could be retired.
Tel: 071 486 7785.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Marketing Manager

Branded Industrial Products

c. £35,000 package Flexible location

New, high profile position in profitable subsidiary of dynamic and successful British plc. Pioneer marketing initiatives to develop business into new market and product areas.

THE COMPANY

- Market leader in fast moving, high volume branded industrial products. Reputation for quality and reliability.
- Track record of profitability, growth and innovation.
- Subsidiary of acquisitive, diversified, internationally renowned plc.

THE POSITION

- Identify new and existing products to meet the needs of the Construction, Automotive and related sectors.
- Drive NPD in line with national and international specifications. Develop pan-European pricing policy and channel strategy.
- Build a technical marketing and sales team. Reports to the Marketing Director.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Engineering graduate, aged 28-35, with technical sales and marketing background in a blue-chip company.
- Experience of developing business through direct and indirect channels.
- Self-starter, hands on operator with flair, drive and multi-cultural empathy.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv, Reference SJ5042

Orion House, Grays Place,
Slough, SL2 5AF
0753-694844

SELECTION

MARKETING RECRUITMENT

LONDON SLOUGH - BIRMINGHAM - MANCHESTER - BRISTOL - GLASGOW

General Manager International Engineering

c. £35,000 + Bonus West Midlands

International sales and marketing professional to develop significant division within prestigious engineering subsidiary of multi-national plc. Exceptional career prospects.

THE COMPANY

- Fast growing subsidiary of multi-billion international plc.
- New division formed to exploit exceptional international growth potential.
- Provide project management, engineering design and manufacturing services to food, pharmaceutical and chemical sectors.

THE POSITION

- Develop and sell company expertise to international markets, particularly USSR, Eastern Europe, Middle East, India and China.
- Grow international division to £30m turnover within three years.
- Establish sales and marketing team. Report to Board.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Outstanding sales and marketing professional, currently selling technical services and/or equipment into at least two target markets.
- Experienced in technology transfer and agency and service operations.
- First class professional with excellent inter-personal skills. Entrepreneur with vision and drive.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv, Reference BJ5040

NBS, Bennetts Court, 6 Bennetts Hill,
Birmingham, B2 5ST
021-233 4656

SELECTION

SENIOR MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT

LONDON SLOUGH - BIRMINGHAM - MANCHESTER - BRISTOL - GLASGOW

Company Secretary

Leading Retailer

c. £30,000 + Benefits Midlands

An internal promotion has created an exceptional opportunity. We seek a young, talented and legally trained company secretary. Very senior position in one of the UK's most successful retailers.

THE COMPANY

- Well known High Street retailer. Part of a leading retail group.
- Highly acquisitive, fast growing and profitable. Turnover c. £300m.
- Currently implementing significant growth plans. Presently operating from 180 stores.

THE POSITION

- Full responsibility to Board Director for all company secretarial functions.
- Manage general administration including insurance, property leasing and negotiations. Lead established team.
- Wide and varied role working closely with the Board.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate, qualified Company Secretary, with strong legal background. Aged 30-40.
- Dedicated professional. Efficient, enthusiastic and practical with strong personal credibility.
- Commercially aware and keen to make active contribution to management of business.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv, Reference BJ5041

NBS, Bennetts Court, 6 Bennetts Hill,
Birmingham, B2 5ST
021-233 4656

SELECTION

RETAIL RECRUITMENT

LONDON SLOUGH - BIRMINGHAM - MANCHESTER - BRISTOL - GLASGOW

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

MANAGER

TRUSTEE/ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

LOCATION: Switzerland

This position is located in Switzerland and is being advertised internationally on behalf of an international group who require a Senior Resident Manager.

The person selected must be around 35 years of age and have senior management experience with responsibility for office administration, financial and budget control, client liaison, personnel selection and control. He will be expected to market the group's services in Europe. The position will involve contact with senior government representatives, leading legal and accounting firms and management at senior level.

Qualifications in accounting and/or law required. Experience with international commercial transactions, corporate structuring and/or international tax is desirable. Ability to speak French is essential.

This unique position and an excellent salary package is offered together with relocation expenses.

All applications in writing only to:

Box No 2316
Times Newspapers
Box no Department
1 Virginia Street
London
E1 9KN

TT TOP LIST

MANUFACTURING DIRECTOR

Engineering subsidiary

Our clients are the engineering subsidiary of a diversified group, on one site in a pleasant south midlands location. A versatile and successful £15m turnover company, they design, make, paint, assemble and sell specialised mobile equipment. Market leader in the UK with substantial export business.

They wish to appoint a Manufacturing Director, reporting to a young Managing Director. Board responsibility for all site operations including manufacture, production engineering and purchasing. The company contributes strongly to Group profitability but there is scope for significant improvement in productivity and factory capacity, particularly through better motivation and stronger management of people on site.

I would like to hear from well qualified engineers with: a successful track record in managing factory operations; an articulate personal presence; the wish and the will to achieve high standards of shop floor management and control, particularly at supervisory level.

Salary circa £40K. Bonus, car and other large company benefits. Please write in confidence with CV to Terry Turner.

TERRY TURNER CONSULTING

100 Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT8 3JL
Tel: 01929 434444 Fax: 01929 434444

UK MANAGER - SALES OPERATIONS

London Area £50,000

Our Client, a world leader in the FMCG market, has positive plans to expand its market penetration in Europe through the headquarters in Paris. These plans include an aggressive sales effort in the UK to meet the targets set in the agreed marketing plan for the UK, potentially a number one market in Europe.

The UK Manager will report to the European Sales Director for all aspects of the sales operation including distribution, logistics and administration. It is essential that candidates can demonstrate real success with major food multiples at top level.

notable sales leadership and exposure to brand marketing.

The demands are undoubtedly very tough but the opportunity to build an operation such as this is second to none - the rewards are geared to the achievements demanded by the sales targets. If you meet our criteria you should submit a comprehensive career resume quoting Ref: 22230/ST.

The confidentiality of all approaches is strictly guaranteed.

Varley-Walker & Partners, St. James House, 17 Horsefair, Birmingham B11D8.
Tel: 021-622 1133 Fax: 021-666 6955.

Varley-Walker
Human Resource Consultants

FINANCIAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Unlimited Earnings Potential (25-50K+) + Quality Car + Company Incentive Scheme (London)

Opportunities for men and women who can offer:

- At least 2 years relevant experience
- A knowledge of financial planning and personal taxation

In return we offer:

- Unlimited earnings potential
- Company car
- Unrivalled incentive scheme
- Guaranteed income

Please contact Stephen Shoebridge or Kevin Gillham on (071) 487 4891 or (071) 487 5909

CHURCHILL FINANCIAL LTD

GLOUCESTER HOUSE, 57-59 GLOUCESTER PLACE, LONDON W1H 3PE

Jewish Chronicle Limited MANAGING DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for suitably qualified persons to replace the present incumbent who will retire in 1991.

Experience of newspaper administration, knowledge of the Jewish community and a degree or professional qualification will be an advantage. The successful candidate will work closely with the new Editor. The preferred age range is 35-50.

A substantial remuneration package is offered, which will be commensurate with the skills required.

Please submit full career and personal details to The Chairman, Jewish Chronicle (MD), 25 Farnham Street, London EC4A 3JT. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

European Director

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATION

S SANDOZ

SANDOZ AGRO EUROPE, a subsidiary of one of the world's major industrial organisations, is a market leader in specialist crop protection products.

Continued growth and development have created the need for an outstanding individual to head EC manufacturing, defining and implementing manufacturing strategies across the community.

Liaising closely with operational units throughout Europe, your role will encompass the development and implementation of an EC sourcing concept and efficiency enhancement in AGRO manufacturing.

Leading and guiding regional manufacturing managers toward objectives and action plans, the preparation of strategic investment decisions will be key tasks, as will evaluation and recommendation of new manufacturing technologies. Cost reduction, process improvement and adherence to the very highest standards of safety and ecology will be main priorities.

Probably aged 30-40, you will be qualified to post-graduate level in chemistry and have a sound knowledge of French. Plant experience at a senior level in safety, production, quality or cost control is essential.

A salary which clearly reflects the seniority of the position in addition to a wide range of executive benefits is offered. The prospects for further career advancement are excellent.

The position is based in France and will involve regular overseas travel.

Please write with detailed C.V., quoting current salary to:

Mr. M. Barry, Recruitment Manager,
SANDOZ, 14 Boulevard Richelieu,
92500 RUEIL MALMAISON, France.

VACANCY FOR SECRETARY TO THE TERRITORIAL AUXILIARY AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION FOR YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

1. Applications are invited for the Secretaryship of the Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Yorkshire & Humberside based at York and covering the 4 counties. The post will become vacant on 7 November 1991 and the successful applicant may be required to understudy the present Secretary for one month before taking over.

2. Applicants will have reached the age of 45, and must be under the age of 56, as at 7 November 1991. Applicants should have Service Staff experience of at least Grade 1 level and be prepared to live within commuting distance of York. Present salary scale is £21,905 to £24,997. This is subject to periodic review.

3. The appointment is for a probationary period of 18 months in the first instance, after which it may be confirmed to the age of 60. Continuance to 65 is subject to approval by the Ministry of Defence and Association. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination. He may contribute to the superannuation fund for which an appropriate non-pensionable addition to salary is provided.

4. Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Yorkshire & Humberside TAVRA, 20 St George's Place, York YO2 2DS. Complete forms must reach the Association by 1 February 1991.

5. No testimonials or similar documents should be sent until asked for. All applications received will be acknowledged. Any form of canvassing will lead to immediate disqualification.

ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

£38 - 50,000 + CAN

Major organisation with an excellent reputation for commercial success and knowledge of Co-Operative, Insurance and Coll. Capable of handling a wide variety of duties incorporating property, personnel, accounts etc. Strong communication skills are essential. An outstanding range of large company benefits are offered.

TAT ACCOUNTING 071-377 1058 (Emp Agt)

TRAINING FOR 1992 LANGUAGE TEACHERS PERSONNEL OFFICERS

Two day courses for those intending to procure adults in commercial languages in industry.

One day course for those intending to set up a language department.

Half day course for those responsible in companies for setting up language programmes/resource centres.

Tel: 0803 866196 Fax: 0803 867150

MORTGAGE CONSULTANTS (Central London)

Rarely does such a unique opportunity arise to join one of the U.K.'s most respected & professional mortgage brokers.

If you have confidence in your own ability and are excited by this opportunity, further details will appear in *The Times* soon. But NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY CALLING 0268 591411.

(All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.)

Alternatively Send C.V. to:

AYSARTH SELECTION & RECRUITMENT
2, Britannia Suite, 9, Britannia Court,
Basildon, Essex, SS13 1EU

Licensed by The Department of Employment No. 19644

COST/MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

£20-25,000 plus benefits.

Expanding International Food Company requires highly qualified cost accountant to work alongside the General Manager in the South office. Previous experience in a Production Environment Essential.

TRAVEL EMPLOYMENT GROUP
Telephone to arrange interview: 081-644 2882 or Fax C.V. to: 081-701 0326

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT West London SALARY £ EXCELLENT

Our client is a leading American Corporation expanding their UK operation in the South of England. Their accounts department now needs an experienced Management Accountant.

Reporting to the Financial Controller, you will be responsible for the development and ongoing preparation of monthly management reports, the provision of management information, cash projections, administration of the P.C. Network and implementation and monitoring of internal control procedures.

You should be qualified and if you have experience of a retail or multi-site operation, this would be advantageous.

Please write with your CV and current salary together with a daytime telephone number quoting Ref: JT/TT12.

All applicants will be treated in the strictest confidence.

RMA
Rosemary Marshall Advertising Ltd

مكذ من الأصل

21

£60,000 PACKAGE

EXECUTIVE CAR

To apply please write with full cv to Richard Lloyd, quoting reference 11/10 at: Richard Lloyd & Associates, 35 Carston Grove, Fords Farm, Calcot, Reading RG3 5ZA.

RICHARD LLOYD & Associates

ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE ASSOCIATES
A Soc. of Health Professionals
Tel: 0734 415161 Fax: 0734 410888

Package c £60,000

Your role will be to develop and implement a strategy that will enable X/Open to effectively coordinate its programmes with the activities of de jure standards organisations on a worldwide basis. As the principle interface between X/Open and national standards bodies

With a minimum of three years in - depth involvement in the formulation of open systems standards, ideally gained with a major IT vendor, you will offer considerable experience of working with national standards bodies and should have a strong understanding of X/Open's role in this process. An excellent communicator and presenter, your career is likely to have covered both technical and commercial management functions on an international basis. This is a high profile role right at the forefront of the open systems debate. As such it will demand an individual with exceptional drive and ability.

Contact Simon Whan on + 44(0) 81 852 8822 during evenings and weekends or on + 44 (0) 923 855515 during office hours. Alternatively write to him at Goodman Graham & Associates, quoting Ref 900, at 8 Beaumont Gate, Shenley Hill, Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 7AR UK. Fax + 44 (0) 923 854791.

x/Open[®]

c. £40,000 + Car

Suffolk

■ **Reporting to the Chief Executive, the General Manager will have responsibility for the day to day operations of the Company, together with the implementation of a strategic operational review to move East Anglian Water towards a smaller and more flexible organisation whilst maintaining its high level of customer service. The Company serves a community of some 242,000 people over an area of 600 square miles.**

■ **Applicants for the position, ideally aged 35-45, should have a sound engineering background. He/she should be able to demonstrate excellent managerial and business development skills.**

■ *Career opportunities within the Group are excellent and in this context proficiency in either French or German would prove useful.*

Interested candidates should write, in confidence, enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae together with salary details and quoting reference JC290 to the Company's advisor Jeff Cottrell, Ernst & Young Corporate Resources, 21 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TB.

c. £25,000 + Car and Benefits

North of England

write, enclosing a copy of your CV
Cathy Thornber, Bywater plc, 119 C

Cathy Thornber, Bywater plc, 119 Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9AL.

Bywater

Power generation will be a key technology. By the year 2000, the world's energy demands will have increased by 30%. There will be one billion new consumers.

tomorrow

Our Power Plants Business Segment supplies technology, equipment, facilities and expertise for the safe, economical production of power. It helps balance supply with demand around the world in environmentally-acceptable ways. The challenges are many and varied: the solutions equally so. We need additional Project and Sales Management skills to support the growth of our business in the decade ahead. We are looking for dynamic, results-oriented people with the right level of experience to fill key functional positions, based in Switzerland.

Above all, you should have a flexible, solution-oriented approach to meeting customer expectations.

Applicants should send their C.V. in the first instance to:
Mr. Paul Barratt, INTEREUROPE Technical Services Ltd, Overseas Division
6 Wedgewood Court, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4OR, Tel. 0438 745 777.

You should have the ability to initiate and develop successful customer relationships, and coordinate the work of different groups in evaluating and responding to their requirements.

By working together we have total commitment to finding you the right job. Our methods of introduction lead to hundreds of opportunities at senior level from City appointments through a wide range of industries. £40+++.

Continued support from start to finish. Flexible Government loan available to assist you with fees.

Call us on 071-488 1324 to learn how we can help you help yourself.

Management Career Consultants,
41 Tower Hill,
London EC3N 4NA

For success and satisfaction at any age, you need to identify jobs which best match your interests, abilities and personality. Consult the experts. Free brochure: **CAREER ANALYSTS**
90 Gloucester Place, W1. Telephone: 071-635 5432 (24 hrs).

Manager/Assistant Manager

Ideal applicants should possess a degree with at least two years relevant experience. This small office has an expanding and varied workload and requires an ambitious person who is able to use their own initiative.

MAEDA CORPORATION
126 Jersey Street, London, SW1Y 4LL

ABB is the world's leading electrical engineering group with revenues of \$25 billion and over 220,000 employees in 140 countries.

ABB
ASEA BROWN BOVERI

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Public Relations Manager

City Based,
c £45,000, Car, Benefits

The Public Relations department of one of the world's largest financial institutions which has its Head Office in London is currently seeking a manager to handle its Retail Banking P.R. activity. As part of the senior management team you will have a major influence on all areas of the department's activity. You will be responsible for all aspects of public relations for the retail and personal sector of the U.K. bank, together with retail developments in Europe.

The job will involve a wide-ranging spectrum of activities including the co-ordination of personal sector media coverage (in the press, TV and radio), briefing of senior executives within the bank, public affairs liaison and involvement with internal communications. This is very much a proactive role with tremendous scope for new initiatives.

Candidates will ideally have a detailed knowledge of the media gained through a journalistic or TV/Radio background, and will have had extensive P.R. experience, probably in the financial sector. They will possess excellent communication skills and have the presence to work closely with senior executives.

Energy, enthusiasm and good leadership skills are vital, whilst an understanding of business and the personal financial market place would be useful.

This is probably the most exciting P.R. department in the City of London and the potential is almost limitless. For the right individual this position will represent an irresistible opportunity.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for a Personal History Form to: J. Jenkins, Hoggett Bowers plc, 13 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM, B15 1JD, 021-455 7576, Fax: 021-454 2336, quoting Ref: B23031/ST.

Hoggett Bowers

BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, ST ALBANS, SHEFFIELD, WINDSOR AND EUROPE

Finance And Administration Manager

East Midlands,
£27,000 negotiable,
Car And
Executive Package

This client company, formed specifically for the generation and sale of electricity under the government's privatisation initiative is a joint venture between three of the industry's major forces. It is anticipated that on completion of the construction phase the new power station will produce a turnover of £70-£80m per annum.

This newly created position, reporting to the General Manager and being a member of a very small management team will be responsible for all financial and administration matters during the construction phase and the subsequent operational phases. The emphasis in the early days will be the establishment of all systems and financial plans and the implementation and adherence to financial facilities agreements through the completion and submission of drawdown requests. There will be a switch during the operational phase towards company accounting and the repayment of loans and facilities.

Clearly, candidates will need to be well versed in all aspects of facilities agreements, stipulated loss values, computerised systems and financial modelling and have the drive and initiative to establish a pro-active finance function from a total start-up situation.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for a Personal History Form to: P. Hall, Hoggett Bowers plc, 70 St. James's Street, NOTTINGHAM, NG1 6FJ, 0602 412019, Fax: 0602 474819, quoting Ref: B18004/ST.

Hoggett Bowers

BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, ST ALBANS, SHEFFIELD, WINDSOR AND EUROPE

DIRECTORS

To secure the best appointments at senior level needs more than good advice, accurate career objectives and succinct presentation.

InterExec not only provides career advice to successful executives but also retains the unique facility of our subsidiary company InterMex to bridge the critical gap between counselling and the right job.

InterMex maintains a data base which comprises 6,000 unadvertised vacancies per annum, providing the unique confidential Inplacement® Service.



If you are considering a move or need a new challenge then telephone (071-930 5041) for an exploratory meeting without obligation.

InterExec Plc
Landseer House,
19 Charing Cross Rd,
LONDON WC2H 0ES.
Tel: 071-930 5041

INTEREXEC

The service offered by InterExec is free and can be used independently of the Counselling Service.

SENIOR MANAGERS

GAS WATCHDOG SEEKS TECHNICAL ADVISERS

The Office of Gas Supply (OFGAS) is seeking specialist advice on the issuing of authorisations to supply gas through pipes and the costs of connecting new customers.

OFGAS regulates the gas supply industry and is headed by the Director General of Gas Supply, James McKinnon, whose duties and functions are laid down in the Gas Act 1986.

One of the functions of the Director General is to authorise the supply of gas through pipes, by suppliers other than British Gas. Authorisations cover a range of types of supply - natural gas, LPG and occasional specialist gases - in a variety of circumstances within the leisure, commercial and industrial sectors. The primary purpose of issuing authorisations is to ensure the safety of gas supplies.

In granting authorisations the Director General requires a "competent person" to certify that individual supply schemes comply, or after necessary improvements, can be made to comply with safety standards laid down in legislation. These include various regulations made under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Pipelines Act 1962, the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1984 and the Gas Quality Regulations 1983.

"Competent persons" are employed by the gas supplier but the Director General designates suitably qualified and experienced gas engineers (normally of chartered status) as "competent persons".

He will in future also ensure that standards are maintained by a series of regular site visits to assess independently the work of "competent persons".

Specialist advice is therefore needed to assist the Director General in designating "competent persons" (there are around 60 at present) and to undertake a regular programme of visits throughout Great Britain (approximately 20 site visits a year are envisaged). More general advice on the safety issues arising from authorisations may also be required.

In addition, the Director General requires advice on the charges levied by British Gas for connecting new customers where these are disputed. Advice is needed in some 15 cases per year.

Proposals are invited to act as consultants either for the vetting of "competent persons", or advising on connection charges, or both. These should include a description of all relevant experience, the qualifications of the person or persons to be involved in the work and the expected level of fees.

Proposals, which must be submitted by 14 January 1991, should be sent to Mr C McGregor at the Office of Gas Supply, London, SW1E 6QT. A copy of OFGAS' standard terms and conditions of contract and any further information, if required, may be obtained by telephoning either Mr G McGregor or Mr C Atkins on 071-828 0898.

OFFICE OF GAS SUPPLY

OFGAS

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES BRUSSELS

In holding a competition, on the basis of qualifications and tests, to draw up a reserve list for the recruitment of (m/f)

SECURITY OFFICERS (clerical assistants)

The work will consist of ensuring the protection and security of persons in the context of the Council's activities, the confidentiality of meetings and information and the surveillance of buildings, equipment, car-parks and garages.

Main conditions of eligibility for the competition:

- secondary education to minimum school-leaving age, certified by a diploma or equivalent professional experience;
- a very good knowledge of one of the official languages of the Communities (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish) and a satisfactory knowledge of another of these languages. A satisfactory knowledge of French is required, sufficient for the duties to be performed. Knowledge of Dutch or English would be welcome;
- date of birth after 31 December 1954;
- training in the field of security, with particular reference to the protection of persons, fire-fighting and first aid to injured persons;
- at least four years' vocational experience in the field of security.

Place of employment: Brussels.

The text of the notification of competition and the compulsory application form may be obtained by writing, on a postcard, by 25 January 1991, to: Recruitment Department, competition C/322-ST, General Secretariat of the Council, rue de la Loi 170, B-1048 Brussels.

Closing date for submitting official applications: 4 February 1991.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FAIRHURST COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED

Are moving from Hire to Sale, having outgrown their existing premises. We now need a variety of staff to help us fill the new premises as quickly as possible. In particular we are looking for:

SOFTWARE SUPPORT ENGINEERS

Initially experienced in PICK and/or UNIK you will have some commercial experience to assist in solving our customers problems with speed and accuracy. You will be self-motivated, dedicated and prepared to work hard. If you have a team we'll take them as well because we need 21 Salary will depend on experience but will be within range of £10k to £15k plus company car.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER(S)

Again with PICK and/or UNIK experience, you will be capable of visiting a customer's site to discuss their requirements and ultimately to document specifications to user and programming levels. Ensuring that both software is produced to specification with the ability to produce software on demand shall be key responsibilities. Experience dictates remuneration, within a range of £12k to £16k plus company car.

All the above positions attract our usual extensive company benefits which include private health care (including immediate family), pensionable service after six months and free long-term holiday accommodation after a full years service.

If you have the right qualifications for any of the above positions apply, in writing, to: Paul Schofield, Financial Director, Fairhurst Computer Systems Ltd, The Courtyard, Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 3HG



Project Finance Manager

Jubilee Line Extension Project
Central London
c. £27,000

The Jubilee Line Extension represents one of the decade's most important investments in London's future. Running from Green Park in the West to Stratford in the East, the 15.4 km route will take about five years to build at a cost of about £1000m.

Clearly, first-class financial management will be a critical factor in the successful completion of the project. That's why we need a qualified accountant of the highest calibre to take on the vital role of Project Finance Manager. Reporting to the Project Director and managing a small team, you'll enjoy substantial independence with responsibility for:

- Providing detailed expenditure information, financial reports and cash-flow statements for effective management of Project costs
- Ensuring contractors and other suppliers are paid on time
- Compiling long and short term budgets and cash-flows ensuring also that Government funding procedures are observed
- Timely reconciliation of General and Project Cost ledgers
- Co-ordinating production of Line Manager's budgets

With at least seven years' experience in a high-pressure commercial environment, you will be able to bring a hands-on approach and an eye for detail to all financial aspects of the project. You are likely to have experience of computer-based systems and will certainly possess the confidence to communicate effectively at senior levels.

An organisation where there is always space to develop your career, we also offer excellent salary and free travel on Underground and Bus services, plus a 75% discount on British Rail travel.

Employment will be on a 2-year contract initially, with every expectation of an extension for the whole project.

To apply, please write, quoting reference UM/758X, enclosing your cv and daytime telephone number to: Angela Gainsford or Christopher Hale, Management Recruitment, London Underground Limited, Broadway Buildings, London SW1 0BD. Tel: 071-227 3370/3129.

Working Towards Equality

Oil and Gas Engineering Manager

Ranger Oil (UK) Limited is one of the UK's premier independent exploration companies. We have interests in 50 UKCS licenses, including seven operatorships and participate in exploration and development ventures in The Netherlands. We also have an active programme in France. In the UK Southern Gas Basin, we operate the Anglia Field which commences production in 1991, introducing a new era of expansion for Ranger.

To strengthen the Company's Exploitation Department, an Engineering Manager is now required. Reporting to the Exploitation Manager and based in Central London, he/she will supervise a team engaged in reservoir engineering, geophysics, development geology and economic evaluation.

The ideal candidate will be a mature professional with broad experience in the North Sea, focussing on reservoir evaluations and management, well testing and oil and gas economics. Production engineering and operations experience would be an asset.

As expected, an excellent compensation and benefits package will befit this key position. Interested candidates may write with CV to:



Steve O'Rear, Manager,
Personnel & Administration,
Ranger Oil (UK) Limited,
Ranger House, 71 Great Peter Street,
London SW1P 2BN.

ARE YOU READY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND? GENERAL MANAGER

Royal Court Hotel, Portrush, Co. Antrim

If you:

- have a proven track record with wide catering experience
- are profit conscious with a flair for marketing
- can take charge of a new, luxurious 30 bedroom hotel with tremendous potential overlooking seaside and championship golf course
- want to earn an excellent salary, plus profit-related bonus (accommodation available).



Then you MUST contact:
Peter Toner, Toner Recruitment
66 Gz. Victoria Street,
Belfast BT2 7BB
Telephone: 0232 246338

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Await you in
CANADA, USA,
AUSTRALIA
+ NEW ZEALAND

We offer a comprehensive list of current positions covering all aspects of Computing vacancies. This is essential information for those who wish to travel abroad.

We offer a comprehensive list of current positions covering various General Trade vacancies. This is essential information for those who wish to travel abroad.

For details send a large stamped addressed envelope to:

JOBSEARCH INTERNATIONAL
GENERAL or COMPUTING DIVISION
10 WHITGIFT STREET
CROYDON, SURREY CRO 1DB.

مكذ من الأصل

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

هكذا من الأصل

The commitment of our Board behind you. A business-wide influence ahead.

British Railways Board has total commitment to safety. We're implementing a comprehensive range of measures throughout our entire organisation, to ensure that safety forms an integral part of each management decision.

As a senior, founder member of our new Safety Audit team, you'll contribute not only an objective assessment of the effectiveness of our policies and procedures, but also your skills as an advisor, consultant and initiator of change.

You'll be going into the thick of the business, co-operating closely with our managers to create a safety culture which is all the more effective because it reflects the needs and nature of the business.

Principal Safety Auditors c. £34,000 + benefits

There are two types of role at this level.

As **Regional Principal**, you'll set up and run a safety audit office - building and developing your audit team. You'll also take the lead in planning and managing audits and in working with managers to achieve improvements.

As **Head Office Principal**, you'll focus on the testing and development of safety policies and procedure, and particularly on the implementation of the ISRS. It's a role bringing close involvement in the business and liaison with other organisations and bodies.

Senior Safety Auditors c. £24,000 + benefits

Based at one of our new regional offices, you'll lead a team conducting safety audits. Working with Line Managers to plan and implement audits, you'll also act as a chief source of advice in recommending improvements.

All posts demand substantial experience of safety management at a senior level in a large organisation. A member of a recognised safety body, you'll need a thorough knowledge of statutory requirements and excellent communication and man-management skills.

Rewards are highly competitive, with benefits including an excellent pension scheme and travel concessions for you and your family. For more information, please write, enclosing your current c.v., to Mike Siebert, Head of Safety Audit, 7th Floor, Tournament House, Paddington Station, London W2 1HQ. Telephone: 071-922 6689.

British Rail - working towards equal opportunities.

Sales Professionals
Networking Systems

Finance

Central Government

Utilities

Salary Package to £46k

In turbulent times in the computer industry, this company offers the financial stability and technological ownership, which are the keys to both corporate and personal growth and development. They look to the future with confidence based on their consistent success and their ability to manufacture and supply quality networking systems, to both the private and public sectors.

They recognise that excellent products must be matched by the best in sales, marketing and support, together with a clear understanding of their customers business needs and information technology requirements.

Therefore, we are looking for industry specialists in the finance and utilities sectors and central government departments, who wish to develop their careers in these markets.

Candidates must demonstrate a minimum of three years consistent sales success, in providing systems solutions to one of

City/Southern England

these vertical markets. These appointments are account based, so a thorough knowledge of account management in competitive markets is essential. Individuals will offer the energy, creativity and flair which is necessary to win business in the short to mid term, whilst developing the long-term relationships which are fundamental to winning strategic systems business.

The company offers a genuine and realistic compensation package, together with ample scope for career development, both in the UK and internationally.

For further information, please call Nicola Ogilvie today, Sunday on 081-673 3416 between 6pm - 10pm or during office hours on 071-222 7766.

Alternatively, you can write to her quoting reference number NO 1091 at Ogilvie & Associates, Buckingham Court, 78 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6PE. Fax number 071-233 0603

OGILVIE

ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION

EUROPE OFFICER
c. £19,000 and attractive benefits

The EEF serves some 5,000 member companies in the UK. We are developing our well-established links with mainland Europe so as to extend these services.

Our vacancy is for a Europe Officer who will build on our existing two way information exchange arrangements with other EC employer federations. He/she will be responsible for keeping our regional associations fully up to date with relevant aspects of employee relations and employment conditions within Europe. There will be some overseas travel.

The successful candidate will have a good command of German and/or French, the ability to produce concise written work, an aptitude for research and analysis, and will be familiar with employment issues.

Excellent working conditions, good pension scheme and other benefits.

If you wish to apply please send c.v. to

Tony de Launay
Head of Employee Relations
Engineering Employers' Federation
Broadway House
Tobacco Street
London SW1H 9NG



SOUTH TEES HEALTH AUTHORITY

Our two Acute Units, containing Middlesbrough General Hospital, North Riding Infirmary and South Cleveland Hospital are amalgamating to create one of the largest Acute Units in England.

The unit of over 1200 acute beds has probably the most comprehensive range of regional and other clinical services in any unit in the North of England. A major opportunity exists to replace two of the hospitals in the next few years in a £50-100m development.

The new post of General Manager will present a substantial challenge to achieve the full potential of this unit and lead it towards the 21st century.

Individuals who consider that they have the qualities and vision to fill this demanding role are invited to submit further details from Patient Smith at District Headquarters, Pools Hospital, Northumbria, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 9NH.

Applications should be in the form of a curriculum vitae which should be received by the above no later than 11th January 1991.

Interviews to be held on the 28th and 29th January 1991.

UNIT
GENERAL
MANAGER

ACUTE UNIT

Basic Salary Circa
£41,000



EUREKA - The Children's Museum, Halifax

The Eureka project is a substantial and unique charity museum development planned to open in 1992 and aimed at children, the family, schools and youth groups. Based on active participation, visitors will learn new skills and receive an insight into the future through a wide variety of exhibition themes.

Sponsorship Director

Part-Time
Location Open,

Package c £30,000

The requirement is for a mature business development and fundraising professional who can gain the confidence and support of major blue chip corporate sponsors from the financial services, retail, manufacturing, commercial and government sectors. This can only be achieved by negotiating at the highest levels and requires a mature individual who has a track record in high level business and general management and obvious sales ability. The post should be regarded as at least a 2 year project, reporting to the chairman, with flexibility on both location and hours worked, although office facilities will be available both in Halifax and London. The Board of Trustees is one of substance and the appointed candidate must therefore be comfortable at a very senior level. The remuneration package includes a performance related bonus element. Ref: A301/ST.

Head Of Marketing

West Yorks. Based,

To £27,000, Car

Reporting to the Museum Director, this is a very full marketing role aimed at maximising the awareness and entry to the museum. Operating within budgeted guidelines, the appointed candidate will liaise with external PR advisors. Likely to be under 40, candidates should be graduate and professionally trained in marketing having gained their expertise in either product or business services marketing. Knowledge of branding in children's and educational markets is desirable. Ref: A302/ST.

Both positions offer scope for further development in line with the expansion of the site which is expected to be considerable.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for a Personal History Form to, P.A. Adedley, Hoggett Bowers plc, 11 Lisbon Square, LEEDS, LS1 4LZ, 0532-448681, Fax: 0532-444401, quoting appropriate reference.

Hoggett Bowers

BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, LEEDS, LONDON,
MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, ST ALBANS, SHEFFIELD, WINDSOR AND EUROPE

PROFILES

COSMETICS AND
TOILETRIES

Sales and Marketing Director, 32, MBA requires exciting and challenging position in the UK or Overseas.

Please tel: (0443) 676806
for information.

I WANT SOME HASSLE

I am a bored but ambitious ex general manager. I like long hours, travel and problems and am willing to take on any challenge whether that is to take a Rock Band on world tour or paint the Severn Bridge.

19 years of management experience in a wide range of subjects. Looking for secure, rewarding but demanding position. In return I will give full commitment to any challenge.

Please write to Box No 2303 or call Voicebox No. 3033

CONSULTANTS AND FREELANCE SERVICES

SPAIN - CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT MANAGER - P.Q.S.

Very fluent, last 10 years in Spain, highly experienced. 'Hands on', owners' representative, all forms of major projects. £5/20 million. Also considerable experience in Sales and Marketing. Available for executive position in Spain, Europe or The Americas

FAX 010 3452-815676

THE TIMES
BANKING AND ACCOUNTANCY

The Times is read by 22,000 businessmen with main responsibility in Finance and Accountancy.

To reach this valuable audience please call Claire Kaufman on

071 481 4481

(Source: BMRB 1990)

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Experienced in Catering, Printing, Stationery, Hotels, Bathing, Leisure, corporate and retail sectors. Started successful independent business in 1985 and built up a successful company.

Now seeking new challenge role in either English or Spanish speaking country with financial sound company.

Tel: 0344 82164 or Please Reply to Box No 2277

PROFITS IMPROVEMENT
IN MANUFACTURING

Managing Director (M.A., M.I.Mech.E) with an excellent record in troubleshooting and developing the profitability of medium sized companies by using expertise in Engineering, Sales & Marketing.

Seeking a post where experience in forming designs and financial controls to develop strategy and business restructuring will prevail.

PLEASE WRITE TO BOX NO 2304 OR TELEPHONE 0604 224612 FOR AN EXPLORATORY MEETING OR CALL VOICEBOX NO. 3042

Graduate F.C.A. 20 years specialising in

Personal Financial Planning
and Consultancy

Including property, pensions, death, portfolio, insurance, tax, probate and life insurance, managing c£100,000 assets.

Seeks interesting partnership or senior position

or can help you and your manager plan your future on a business basis.

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO BOX NO 2036

LEA MANUFACTURE OF

Flow Computers to opening UK office.

Immediate opening for an expert

Electronics Engineer and a

Systems Programmer.

Send CV to

Elcott Flow Computers,

10903 Brookside Drive,

Houston, Texas 77099.

Fax 0101 713 630 1962.

NEW YEAR
RESOLUTION

Start the New Year with a bang! Don't be bored, uninspired or under-motivated at work - contact the VQA for creative advice about your career.

Since 1991 your

Year of Change

Call 071 935 5600 (day) or 071-946 2336

or 071-946 2336

THE VOCATIONAL

GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION

Upper Merston Street

SALES MANAGER
O.T.E. £26K

SARGENT'S ACoustics LIMITED, a leading force in Building Services Noise Control and a division of a large International Group is seeking to appoint an experienced SALES MANAGER to take full control of all U.K. Sales.

Reporting directly to the Managing Director the key to your success will be your product and market knowledge and ability to develop and maintain sales and achieve targets.

With a thorough knowledge of the Building Services industry and preferably a working knowledge of acoustics, applicants should be able to demonstrate sales success in these fields.

Career prospects are excellent and the total remuneration package is highly competitive. It is envisaged that the successful applicant will be able to assume the position of SALES DIRECTOR within two years.

Please write enclosing your C.V. quoting current salary to:

Philip Northfield, Managing Director, Sargent's Acoustics Limited, The Alders, Ware, Herts, SG12 8JG

Are YOU one of the MANY looking for a New Career...

Let our experts help you get that COMPETITIVE EDGE

We will show you how to:-

- Write your C.V.
- Answer Advertisements
- Present yourself well at Interviews
- Deal with Recruitment Agencies

InTuition Management Services are presenting 1 DAY WORKSHOPS to be held at EASTHAMPTON PARK, Wokingham on JANUARY 19th & 26th 1991.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE... LET 1991 BE THE YEAR FOR YOU.

For further information please contact InTuition Management Services, 4/11 Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8DP, 0628 776384

CHEMICALS
GENERAL
MANAGER

(Director Designate)

SHEFFIELD

A unique opportunity for high

performers to lead on

life time learning and

development in a

processes of successful

general management in the

chemical industry.

The General Manager will be

responsible for the future

viability of our small chemical

works over a period of

reporting directly to the

board. The remuneration

package will reflect the

importance of this key

position. Please respond to

the Managing Director,

Technical and Manufacturing

Services Ltd,

Brumby House,

40 New Road, Chatham,

Kent ME4 4QN.

SENIOR ENGINEER

£19k-£22k + car

An experienced and

accomplished practical

mechanical engineer.

Graduate preferably min 2

years experience. Design and

development of fluid handling

products for hazardous

liquids, batch production

environment. Excellent

package plus relocation.

P.S.B. Tel: 0843 591798.

Fax 0843 592228 (Age).

BANKING AND
ACCOUNTANCY

Young qualified & part qualified

accountants need not shoot our

vacancies now.

ALAN TIDY AND

ASSOCIATES

St. Leonards House,

St. Leonards Road, Thurston

Dixon, Surrey KT7 0RN.

Tel: 081-398 7797

Telex: 081-398 7797

THE INTERNAL AUDIT

SPECIALISTS

REAL ESTATE
AGENT

needed. Must have experience

in residential, with licence to

operate an office in London or

other provinces in the UK.

Send resume with references

to: KUDCO GROUP

150, Napier, London

EC2A 4PU. Tel: 0101 813 643

0635 Tel: 0101 813 643 5001

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

VENTURE CAPITAL COMPANY

Business Equity Securities plc, a fast growing

European-wide venture capital company, is seek-

ing to appoint a high powered and experienced

Managing Director to handle its commercial, legal

and administrative responsibilities.

The post will involve

interlinking with merchant banks, and com-

panies in which BES has

an interest, as well as with BES' parent company

in Zurich and subsidiary companies throughout

Europe. The successful applicant will have a sound

understanding of the workings of merchant banks

as well as of a cross section of industries. A strong

legal bias, particularly as regards company law

(both in the UK and the rest of Europe) would be

advantageous.

The salary and ben-

efits package that go with

this role will reflect the

seniority of this execu-

tive director within our

organisation.

Please write in confidence with full career

details to: The Secretary, Business Equity

Securities plc, Windsor House, Windsor Terrace,

Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, R. Ire.

BES

BUSINESS EQUITY SECURITIES PLC

STOCKHOLDING
MANAGING DIRECTOR
c£28K PLUS BONUS

A successful Midlands based engineering plc group is seeking a Managing Director for its growing stockholding operations, which are geographically spread across England.

The successful candidate should be approximately 35 to 45, with a good track record as an experienced trader. H/she will also have the proven general management ability to control and direct a network of expanding stockholding operations. This is an ideal opportunity for both a hands on and strategic role in an autonomous business with an impressive growth record.

The remuneration package is negotiable and also includes the normal car, pension and BUPA benefits. Applicants should write in the first instance with full C.V. to the Group Managing Director. Please Reply to Box No

2237

We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated

Enterprise Project Manager

within range £15,000 - £18,000

to work with the Director of our Manchester office on Economic Development projects. Initial responsibility will include the development of a two-year Sainsbury/TEC project involving the identification and evaluation of successful small business support mechanisms and the monitoring of initiatives in the four pilot areas in the North of England.

Candidates should have the ability to write clearly and succinctly about complex issues and have an interest in the needs of small firms.

Fluency in French or German would be an advantage. For further details please contact: Maureen Nugent, The Planning Exchange, 3 Worsley Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 4NN. Tel. 061 727 8677.

CV and supporting information to be forwarded by 21st December.

The Planning
Exchange

Investing in Intergenerational

FOOTBALL

New contract is the reward for Strachan leadership at Leeds

By IAN ROSS

GORDON Strachan, the inspiration behind the renaissance of Leeds United, has been rewarded with a new two-year contract. Strachan has agreed an extension to his present contract which will keep him with the club until 1993, when he will be aged 36.

Although the former Scottish international midfielder has yet to put pen to paper, he is expected to complete the formalities of the recently negotiated deal before his present contract expires on June 1.

"I have yet to sign the deal but everything has been sorted out and I am delighted," Strachan said. "I would love to finish my career here at Leeds United. We have come a long way in a very short time and I can only agree with those people who suggest that there are more exciting times ahead for this club."

Strachan, who moved to Elland Road from Manchester United for £300,000 in March last year, helped guide Leeds

towards the second division championship last season and has been a key figure as the club has successfully re-established itself as one of the most powerful in English football this season.

"I am overjoyed with the news that Gordon is to sign a new deal," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said.

"His signing was one of the best pieces of business I have ever done as a football manager and I bless the day the deal went through."

"Every manager wants to be in a position to sign top quality players like him and when that happens, and they fulfill all hopes and expectations, it is extremely rewarding. When I look at his performances, it is hard to imagine that he is now 33-years-old."

"His mind is still so very alert and he keeps himself superbly fit. When I signed him, most people questioned the wisdom of the transfer and some insinuated that the only

reason he was coming to Leeds was to wind down towards retirement. Now, those same people are praising him almost every week."

Bryan Robson, the former England captain, will start a senior game for Manchester United for the first time since last May's FA Cup final replay against Crystal Palace on Saturday against Wimbledon.

Robson, who has made only two brief appearances as a substitute since his recovery from two operations on a seriously damaged Achilles tendon, has been recalled to help combat United Wimbledon's unique long-ball tactics.

"He will have a flexible role and will hopefully use his defensive know-how when it is needed most," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

"He is looking strong and his return is a boost for the club and for him. He has worked very hard to get back and he made a terrific impact after coming on against Coventry City last weekend."

PFA on collision course with FA

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is preparing to take the Football Association to court to seek a ruling that appeals should be allowed against automatic suspension, with the use of television evidence permitted.

"We are seriously considering divorcing ourselves from the FA's disciplinary system," Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the PFA, said yesterday. "We are looking for a better system of natural justice and we want to make it clear that we no longer support the FA's disciplinary schedule."

"It is an injustice that the FA is prepared to use television evidence to bring charges against clubs and players but that it will not allow television evidence to be used to support a player who may have been sent off unjustly."

"Why should that player have to sit in the stands for an automatic three-match suspension? Why should referees be said to be right when they are clearly wrong?"

"If future instances of such injustice arise we will challenge the FA through the courts. There are so many inconsistencies concerning the interpretation of the FA's directives on the professional foul and the offside law by referees that the fact that there is no provision

for appeal is contrary to natural justice."

Taylor said for the last two years the FA had been aware of the players' concern. At a meeting in April this year, with Alan Thompson, the head of the disciplinary committee, in the chair and with Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, Alan Evans, secretary of the Welsh FA, David Dent, the secretary of the League, and Olaf Dixon, the secretary of the Football League Executive Staff Association also present, it was unanimously agreed to introduce a right of review within 14 days of a sending-off, where there was substantial evidence of injustice.

"By substantial we meant television evidence," Taylor said. "Most clubs have video tapes these days."

"But at a further meeting of the full disciplinary committee on May 1, when we expected our proposal to be rubber-stamped, it was thrown out, with no right of appeal. The irony is that this was the first time that those of us sitting on that committee had been in unanimous agreement. In reality it was a political decision. Apparently the FA was frightened we would demand that matches be replayed, which is ridiculous."

Officials found guilty by FA Commission

THE Exeter City chairman, Ivor Doble, the former secretary, Mike Holliday, and two other men connected with the third division club have been found guilty of misconduct by an FA disciplinary commission.

After a day-long hearing yesterday, the commission decided to delay a decision on possible action. Found guilty with Doble and Holliday were Murray Couch, a director, Archie Gooch, a former director.

The misconduct charges referred to money allegedly received by the club from the Football Ground Improvement Trust for work at the club's St James' Park headquarters.

The investigation was launched after former Exeter City manager, Brian Kelly, was found guilty of misappropriation of funds and the FA. Doble and the other directors have denied the charges.

Three goals from Hirst fail to save the day

By LOUISE TAYLOR

DAVID Hirst scored three goals for Sheffield Wednesday, but his team lost its Yorkshire derby with Barnsley 3-1 at Hillsborough on Tuesday. The score was 3-3 after extra time.

Everton also progressed to the third round. Their best Blackburn Rovers, of the second division, 4-1. Crystal Palace went through 2-1 at home to Bristol Rovers, their goals supplied by Andy Gray and John Salako, after Tony Foulger had supplied Rovers with an early lead.

Blackpool, who are floundering in the fourth division, ended the 13-match unbeaten run of Bolton Wanderers, who are flying high in the third, to level the knockout stages

of the Leyland Daf Cup after winning 3-0 at Bloomfield Road. Bradford City also went through, at the expense of Hartlepool United, winning 4-0 at the Victoria Ground, where Steven Torpey scored three. Two goals from Mark Lillis helped Scunthorpe United to eliminate Chesterfield 3-1. Chesterfield had Bryn Gunn, their captain, sent off.

● Ian Atkins, Colchester United's player-manager, is being reported to the FA by Leyton Orient for getting mid-fielder Martin Grainger sent off in Monday FA Cup tie at Brisbane Road.

● Ian Atkins, Colchester United's player-manager, is being reported to the FA by Leyton Orient for getting mid-fielder Martin Grainger sent off in Monday FA Cup tie at Brisbane Road.

The sky's the limit as BOA launches a 2000 race odyssey

ANTHONY PHELPS



Olympic cards on the table: Palmer and Gold, the BOA general secretary and chairman respectively, underline the guidelines for bidders.

Britain's billion-pound Olympic bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE British Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday unanimously agreed to hear bids from cities wanting to stage the 2000 Games in the United Kingdom at an estimated cost of £1 billion.

Manchester, which last September failed to secure the 1996 Games, and London are likely to be among the cities bidding to host the event for the first time since 1948.

They must register their bids by January 31, 1991 and present their cases to the BOA by mid-April next year. The BOA will

then decide whether to nominate a city to the International Olympic Committee, which will vote on the location of the 2000 Games in Monte Carlo in September 1993.

Between now and April, an evaluation commission of the BOA and Bill Slater, Craig Reddie and Peter Coni, all experienced administrators, and advised by planning experts and a firm of accountants, will scrutinise the bids and advise the cities.

Sir Arthur Gold, the BOA chairman, said: "There must not be any undue empty optimism. We must be sure that the funds are available, prob-

ably as much as £1 billion in 2000."

"The bid must be assumed to be successful. It must set a high benchmark. It must be unchallengeable and bring credit to British sport and Britain itself. It must also offer a number of benefits for the foreseeable future. We do not want to bid solely to make a bid."

The evaluation commission will ensure that the bidding cities meet proper standards in specific areas. These guidelines, which were agreed by the 30-member BOA yesterday, include general strategy and attitude, finance, planning,

Olympic viability, local, and national political support and sporting facilities.

The BOA also stressed that it would consider only one bid from each city. This means that the three London groups, London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, a construction consortium (Wimpey, Tarmac and Costain), and London Sport, an amalgam of London Sports Authorities, must combine forces.

Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, said that although the bidding process had gone well for Manchester last September, it was felt that the city needed a

better product, with more facilities in place.

It is widely felt that unless the government is prepared to assist in the finance and planning permission for a number of major stadiums and an Olympic village, the chance of Britain securing the Games is remote.

Manchester secured 12 votes in the first round in the voting for the 1996 Games, but were eliminated with five in the second round. Four years earlier, Birmingham was the British candidate to stage the 1992 Games, which will be held in Barcelona. It gained eight votes in the first round and eight in the second.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Tenth time for Taylor and Jackson achieves double

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawrence Taylor was named to the National Football League (NFL) Pro Bowl for the tenth time in ten seasons yesterday and Bo Jackson almost surely became the first sportsman to be named to representative teams in two leading American professional sports.

In voting by NFL players and coaches, the Buffalo Bills led the league with eight players on the American Football Conference (AFC) team, including five starters, Andre Reed, wide receiver, Kent Hull, center, Thurman Thomas, running back, Bruce Smith, defensive end, and Shane Conlan, linebacker.

The backups from the Bills were Jim Kelly, quarterback, and Cornelius Bennett, line-

backer. Steve Tasker was named as the special-teams player for the annual post-season exhibition game, to be played on February 3 in Honolulu.

The Houston Oilers had six players on the AFC team, including Warren Moon, quarterback, Bruce Mathews, and Mike Munchak, guards, as starters.

The Chicago Bears, with six players, led the National Conference (NFC) and the Giants and San Francisco each placed five players on the team, with San Francisco's Joe Montana at quarterback and Jerry Rice at one wide receiver position.

Before Taylor was named a tenth time, six other players had been elected nine times. The former Pittsburgh linebacker,

Jack Lambert, made the team in his first 10th season.

Jackson, the Los Angeles Raiders running back, made the American League squad in Major League Baseball's all-star game in 1989 as an outfielder for the Royals.

The only teams without representatives were the New York Jets and the Dallas Cowboys. Three rookies, Johnny Johnson, a Phoenix running back, the safety, Mark Carrier, of Chicago, and Richmond Webb, offensive tackle, of Miami, were also named.

● CHICAGO: The running back, Neil Anderson, sustained a career-high last Sunday against Detroit and is doubtful for next Sunday's game at Tampa Bay, a Chicago Bears spokesman said yesterday (Agencies report).

MOTOR RACING

New Tyrrell tested at Silverstone

THE 1991 Tyrrell-Honda 020 Formula One car was given its first track test at Silverstone yesterday, when the new Tyrrell 020 was a totally new car.

The installation of the Honda V10 engine has required a new chassis architecture, but by designing a new transverse gear-train, the team managed to preserve the same weight distribution and wheelbase.

Postlethwaite said that the 020 has been built to a higher standard than anything the team has built in the past, despite some last-minute changes in regulations.

Although it follows the over-design concept of the 019, the latest Tyrrell is a totally new car. "The installation of the Honda V10 engine has required a new chassis architecture, but by designing a new transverse gear-train, the team managed to preserve the same weight distribution and wheelbase."

Postlethwaite said that the 020 has been built to a higher standard than anything the team has built in the past, despite some last-minute changes in regulations.

Postlethwaite said that the 020 has been built to a higher standard than anything the team has built in the past, despite some last-minute changes in regulations.

"I think we have cause to be very optimistic about what we can achieve in 1991," the teaming director, Bob Tyrrell, said.

Earlier this week, the first of the Honda RA101E engines arrived in a crate from the Japanese company's engine preparation headquarters in Langley, when the Tyrrell staff opened it, they found that the engine had been wrapped in yellow ribbon with a card attached saying: "A Christmas present for the Tyrrell team from their new friends at Honda."

The team will decide whether the appeal should be upheld or not.

CRICKET: Richard Davis, the left-arm spinner, has agreed on a new two-year contract with Kent.

● The Duke of Devonshire is to resign the presidency of Derbyshire at the club's annual meeting next month, bringing to a close his family's unbroken occupation of the office for the last 81 years.

BASEBALL: The finalists for two new National League teams in 1993 are Buffalo, Denver, Miami, Orlando, Tampa-St. Petersburg and Washington, Chelmsford, captains the England women's squad that will compete in the HMV indoor tournament in The Hague from January 25 to 27.

SQUAD: 1. Buffington (Chelmsford), 2. Chandler (Bournemouth), 3. Frost (Bournemouth), 4. Long (Bournemouth), 5. Lister (Chelmsford), 6. Phipps (Bournemouth), 7. Roper (Bournemouth), 8. Roper (Bournemouth), 9. Roper (Bournemouth), 10. Roper (Bournemouth).

RUGBY LEAGUE: The directors of Leigh meet their local MP, Lawrence Cunliffe, today on the plight of the club, which is said to be £900,000 in the red.

GOLF

Davies aims high for next season

By PATRICIA DAVIES

BEING a golfer, Laura Davies always comes out swinging, but next year she has a few targets to home in on. "I've just been getting along for the last two years," she said yesterday.

"Now I've got to try to win one of the money lists, in America or Europe, or at least finish in the top three."

"I won six times in 1988," she added, "and it's difficult to follow a year like that. But it's time to be up there competing again."

The former US and British women's Open champion did not agree with the assessment of Richard George, of Westbury, who has decided to discontinue his sponsorship of her because she has not lived up to his expectations.

"I think he's living in a dream world," Davies said. "Since I've been with Westbury I've had nine wins, about six seconds and eight thirds and been in the top ten 34 times. But if he doesn't think I've done my job, that's up to him."

"I finished off the year playing superbly," she said, "but the last of the year was very disappointing. I did actually win once but one win a year is not enough. It would be nice to do what Beth Daniel did but I don't think I'm quite ready for that yet."

Daniel was the player-of-the-year in the United States, with seven wins, but, as Davies pointed out, the American, at 34, is seven years older and more experienced. The British player should not reach her own prime for another few years.

Armed with some advice from Chi Chi Rodriguez, her partner in a mixed event in the States a few weeks ago, Davies has decided to discontinue her sponsorship of her because she has not lived up to his expectations.

"I think he's living in a dream world," Davies said. "Since I've been with Westbury I've had nine wins, about six seconds and eight thirds and been in the top ten 34 times. But if he doesn't think I've done my job, that's up to him."

"I finished off the year playing superbly," she said, "but the last of the year was very disappointing. I did actually win once but one win a year is not enough. It would be nice to do what Beth Daniel did but I don't think I'm quite ready for that yet."

Daniel was the player-of-the-year in the United States, with seven wins, but, as Davies pointed out, the American, at 34, is seven years older and more experienced. The British player should not reach her own prime for another few years.

Armed with some advice from Chi Chi Rodriguez, her partner in a mixed event in the States a few weeks ago, Davies has decided to discontinue her sponsorship of her because she has not lived up to his expectations.

"I think he's living in a dream world," Davies said. "Since I've been with Westbury I've had nine wins, about six seconds and eight thirds and been in the top ten 34 times. But if he doesn't think I've done my job, that's up to him."

"I finished off the year playing superbly," she said, "but the last of the year was very disappointing. I did actually win once but one win a year is not enough. It would be nice to do what Beth Daniel did but I don't think I'm quite ready for that yet."

Daniel was the player-of-the-year in the United States, with seven wins, but, as Davies pointed out, the American, at 34, is seven years older and more experienced. The British player should not reach her own prime for another few years.

Armed with some advice from Chi Chi Rodriguez, her partner in a mixed event in the States a few weeks ago, Davies has decided to discontinue her sponsorship of her because she has not lived up to his expectations.

"I think he's living in a dream world," Davies said. "Since I've been with Westbury I've had nine wins, about six seconds and eight thirds and been in the top ten 34 times. But if he doesn't think I've done my job, that's up to him."

"I finished off the year playing superbly," she said, "but the last of the year was very disappointing. I did actually win once but one win a year is not enough. It would be nice to do what Beth Daniel did but I don't think I'm quite ready for that yet."

Daniel was the player-of-the-year in the United States, with seven wins, but, as Davies pointed out, the American, at 34, is seven years older and more experienced. The British player should not reach her own prime for another few years.

Armed with some advice from Chi Chi Rodriguez, her partner in a mixed event in the States a few weeks ago, Davies has decided to discontinue her sponsorship of her because she has not lived up to his expectations.

"I think he's living in a dream world," Davies said. "Since I've been with Westbury I've had nine wins, about six seconds and eight thirds and been in the top ten 34 times. But if he doesn't think I've done my job, that's up to him."

"I finished off the year playing superbly," she said, "but the last of the year was very disappointing. I did actually win once but one win a year is not enough. It would be nice to do what Beth Daniel did but I don't think I'm quite ready for that yet."

Catamarans in dispute

SYDNEY — The challenge match in C class catamarans for the little America's Cup has become a subject of controversy (Bob Ross writes).

In the second race of an elimination series between French and United States syndicates, for the right to meet the Australian defender, The Edge, a French catamaran, was damaged in Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, next month, the French challenger OTTP capsized and badly damaged its rig.

The French team, skippered by Eric Bruneel, subsequently installed a conventional mast and soft-sailed rig on OTTP.

However, the Freedom's Wing spokesman, Steve Rosenburg, said that because the mast and sail had been provided by Australians, under the Deed of Gift governing the race, the French would be prohibited from using them.

If they did so in the next race, scheduled for today, he would expect the race committee to protest and place the dispute before a panel of jurors.

YACHTING

Martin creeps towards record time

JOHN Martin looks set to smash the record for the second stage of the BOC single-handed world race, the International Soling Regatta, which has slowed his progress on the final approach to Sydney (Barry Pickthall writes).

His 60th yacht, Allied Bank, now within 250 miles of winning the 7,000-mile stage from Cape Town, was down to 3 knots at times yesterday, but the South African holds high hopes of finishing on Saturday, well inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

Five hundred miles further astern, another Frenchman, Yves Dupuyquier, continues to dominate the class 2 entry list. His 50th yacht, Servant, is now almost 700 miles ahead of her nearest rival, Josh Hall's New Spirit of Ipswich. The British skipper, who relocated his base last week, remains 1,500 miles from the finish, but holds a 143-mile lead over Don McIntyre, in third place.

Inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

Five hundred miles further astern, another Frenchman, Yves Dupuyquier, continues to dominate the class 2 entry list. His 50th yacht, Servant, is now almost 700 miles ahead of her nearest rival, Josh Hall's New Spirit of Ipswich. The British skipper, who relocated his base last week, remains 1,500 miles from the finish, but holds a 143-mile lead over Don McIntyre, in third place.

Inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

Five hundred miles further astern, another Frenchman, Yves Dupuyquier, continues to dominate the class 2 entry list. His 50th yacht, Servant, is now almost 700 miles ahead of her nearest rival, Josh Hall's New Spirit of Ipswich. The British skipper, who relocated his base last week, remains 1,500 miles from the finish, but holds a 143-mile lead over Don McIntyre, in third place.

Inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

Five hundred miles further astern, another Frenchman, Yves Dupuyquier, continues to dominate the class 2 entry list. His 50th yacht, Servant, is now almost 700 miles ahead of her nearest rival, Josh Hall's New Spirit of Ipswich. The British skipper, who relocated his base last week, remains 1,500 miles from the finish, but holds a 143-mile lead over Don McIntyre, in third place.

Inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

Five hundred miles further astern, another Frenchman, Yves Dupuyquier, continues to dominate the class 2 entry list. His 50th yacht, Servant, is now almost 700 miles ahead of her nearest rival, Josh Hall's New Spirit of Ipswich. The British skipper, who relocated his base last week, remains 1,500 miles from the finish, but holds a 143-mile lead over Don McIntyre, in third place.

Inside the 28-day 7-hour time set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, four years ago.

FOR THE RECORD

1. 1991 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

2. 1990 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

3. 1989 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

4. 1988 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

5. 1987 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

6. 1986 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

7. 1985 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

8. 1984 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

9. 1983 (last time won 8.5 on pond). JERRY EASTON COINTE LEAGUE: Premier Division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Second division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Third division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2. Fourth division: Great Varnham 1, Newmarket 2.

SKI HOTLINE

Britain's best informed ski information service
UPDATED DAILY

DIAL 0898.654+
FRANCE (A-F) 641
FRANCE (G-H) 642
FRANCE (I-J) 643
AUSTRIA (A-F) 644
AUSTRIA (G-H) 645
AUSTRIA (I-J) 646
SWITZERLAND (A-F) 647
SWITZERLAND (G-H) 648
SWITZERLAND (I-J) 649
SPAIN (A-F) 650
SPAIN (G-H) 651
SPAIN (I-J) 652
ITALY (A-F) 653
ITALY (G-H) 654
ITALY (I-J) 655
GERMANY (A-F) 656
GERMANY (G-H) 657
GERMANY (I-J) 658
NORWAY (A-F) 659
NORWAY (G-H) 660
NORWAY (I-J) 661
LATE SKI HOLS 662
Call 0898.654+ for more info
4p per line + 1p per min + 1p per sec
Su. 4p, 1p per min + 1p per sec

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 1: France 1, Czech Republic 2. Group 2: Spain 1, Germany 2. Group 3: Italy 1, Greece 2. Group 4: Turkey 1, Bulgaria 2. Group 5: Romania 1, Hungary 2. Group 6: Poland 1, Slovakia 2. Group 7: Czech Republic 1, France 2. Group 8: Germany 1, Spain 2. Group 9: Greece 1, Italy 2. Group 10: Bulgaria 1, Turkey 2. Group 11: Hungary 1, Romania 2. Group 12: Slovakia 1, Poland 2.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Utah Jazz 105, Philadelphia 76ers 98. Los Angeles Lakers 100, New York Knicks 97. Chicago Bulls 112, Miami Heat 103. Phoenix Suns 94, Houston Rockets 85. Milwaukee Bucks 106, Detroit Pistons 107. Seattle SuperSonics 108, Portland Trail Blazers 102. Golden State Warriors 94, Sacramento Kings 105. Minnesota Timberwolves 98.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 1: France 1, Czech Republic 2. Group 2: Spain 1, Germany 2. Group 3: Italy 1, Greece 2. Group 4: Turkey 1, Bulgaria 2. Group 5: Romania 1, Hungary

● SPORTS LETTERS 32
● RACING 33
● CRICKET 34

SPORT

Adams jailed for four months

By LOUISE TAYLOR

TONY ADAMS

FOOTBALL closed ranks behind Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain and England international defender, who was jailed for four months yesterday after admitting that he had driven while three times over the legal drink-drive limit in May.

Adams, aged 24, was given a nine-month jail sentence, with five months suspended for reckless driving and three months to run concurrently for driving with excess alcohol. Adams was also banned from driving for two years and ordered to pay £500 costs. Last night, he was in prison in Chelmsford and was said to be considering, with his solicitor, an appeal against the sentence.

George Graham, the manager of Arsenal, spoke on Adams' behalf at Southend Crown Court. Afterwards, Ken Friar, the club secretary, said: "The boy made a mistake and he has been dealt with. The club will be taking no further action; we fined him £2,000 in the summer when the offence was committed. Our position now is that we will stand by our player."

"This has come as a very great surprise to everyone who knows Tony. He is a very level-headed lad, which is one of the reasons George Graham awarded him the captaincy. Another is his resilient character, which I am sure will stand him in good stead in prison. But Tony is consulting with his lawyer and may decide to appeal."

Graham said he was considering helping with an appeal on Adams' behalf. "Tony has been a colossus for Arsenal in the past and will be a colossus in the future," he said.

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), said: "I have every sympathy for Tony. Everyone comes under the law of the land, but Tony appears to have been dealt with very severely, and this has come as a real shock."

"All young people can be high spirited at times, and Tony is no different from any other youngster. I think a custodial sentence is the wrong punishment. I cannot believe it is the most appropriate penalty. He will need people at Arsenal to put a

Born: Romford, October 10 1966.
Playing career: Club Arsenal. Debut v Sunderland, November 5, 1983. Appearances: 248 (all competitions). Captain since spring 1988.
International: Debut for England, February 18, 1987 (against Spain). Appearances: 16 full, 5 under-21.
Honours: 1987: PFA Young Player of the Year; Littlewoods Cup winner, 1985; League championship; Littlewoods Cup runner-up.

sympathetic arm around him when he comes out."

David Bloomfield, the Football Association's press officer, said: "This is a clear indication that footballers are not beyond the law of the land. And it is a timely reminder for anyone at this time of the year."

Any further disciplinary measures would come from the FA and not from Graham Taylor, the England manager. All of the England candidates were warned at the beginning of the season that they risked being omitted from the squad if they were found to be guilty of misconduct either on or off the pitch.

At the very least Adams, who played in England's last international against the Republic of Ireland five weeks ago, will miss the next game against Cameroon in February.

Mick Quinn, the Newcastle United forward, who was jailed for 21 days after admitting driving while disqualified in 1986, when he was with Portsmouth, yesterday spoke of the sense of isolation Adams can expect.

"Being stuck in a cell for 23 hours a day is terrible, especially for a footballer," Quinn said. "You have plenty of time to think and it made me appreciate the freedom you have as a footballer, out in the open air with thousands of people watching you."

"I was only allowed one newspaper each day. There was nothing else to do but read and try to keep fit. The worst thing was listening to the radio on a Saturday afternoon for results. It was so frustrating not being able to do anything about what was happening out there. And when I came out, I was taunted by supporters."

Adams, who is unmarried, began his career as an apprentice at Highbury, and the highlight of his club career came in 1989 when he led Arsenal to the league championship. By then, he had already played for England at the age of 20.



Anxious anticipation: Adams (left) and his solicitor on their way to Southend Crown Court yesterday

He has played a leading role in Arsenal's campaign this season but his imprisonment yesterday, for offences committed in May, was the latest and most severe setback in a troubled year.

In the summer, he was omitted, at the last minute, from the England party that went to the World Cup in Italy and he did not play again for England until last month. Last week he was in the England B team which drew in Algeria.

Earlier this month, Adams was sent off for the first time in his career after committing a professional foul against Luton Town. On Monday, the FA rejected his appeal against the dismissal and upheld an automatic suspension.

Bending the law, page 2

EIGHT UNHAPPY MONTHS

May 6: Adams crashes his Ford Sierra while returning from a bar in Romford, Essex.
May 21: Adams is left out of England's World Cup squad.
October 28: Arsenal, under the captaincy of Adams, and Manchester United are involved in a brawl on the pitch at Old Trafford.

November 12: Adams is present as an FA commission deducts two points and fines Arsenal £50,000 for their part in the brawl.

November 13: Romford magistrates pass the driving charges against Adams to Southend Crown Court.

November 24: Adams is alleged to have made a provocative gesture to supporters during a match at Loftus Road against Queens' Park Rangers.

December 8: Adams is sent off for a professional foul after conceding a penalty at Luton.

December 10: Police recommend that the FA takes action over the incident at Loftus Road.

December 18: FA rejects Adams' appeal against his dismissal at Luton and bans him for three matches.

England rely on experience in flexible squad

By DAVID HANDS

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S planning for the 1991 rugby World Cup remains flexible, judging by the squad of 30 players named yesterday for training in Lanzarote next month. When in doubt the selectors have gone for experience, but they have emphasised that places remain open, particularly for players hindered at the moment by injury.

Into that category falls Simon Halliday, the Bath centre who was contemplating retirement at the end of last season, depending on the consequences of an ankle operation in July. However, he has been training regularly and hopes to play for the first time this season next month: "You have to consider anyone with a track record," Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union technical administrator, said and if Halliday can regain his known form, he could yet be a forceful presence in the 1991 tournament.

The most challenging selection in the squad, which will leave for Lanzarote on January 3 and return four days later, is that of Ian Hunter, a newcomer to the squad along with Adedayo Adebayo and Simon Dear, on the wing. Rutherford confessed he was not aware that Hunter, the Northampton full back, had any substantial experience of the position but added: "We feel his physical qualities and ability to run elusively for such a big man in broken play suggests he has more of a future as a wing."

Hunter won his first B cap as full back against the Emerging Australians in November, but Jonathan Webb's return to form this season permits the selectors to use Hunter's qualities elsewhere; it is a positive choice, in the absence through injury of Chris Oti and the perceived decline in the form of Tony Underwood, one of 11 players included in the national squad of 32 announced in August who are not required for Lanzarote.

The younger Underwood has an excellent opportunity to answer the critics when he plays for Leicester, his club, on December 27 against the Barbarians directly opposite Nigel Heslop - who is going to Lanzarote. The England selectors would clearly prefer that Paul Ackford, the Harlequins lock, missed that match so as to ensure a recovery from

England squad

FULL BACKS: S D Hopkinson (Nottingham), J Webb (Bath), Winger: A A Adebayo (Bath), N Heslop (Oxford), Halfback: (Northampton), R Underwood (Leicester). CENTRES: J R D Buckton (Saracens), W D C Carling (Harlequins), P H de Glanville (Oxford University), J S Gaskell (Bath). STAMPS: C R Andrew (Wasps), D Preece (Harlequins). SCrum-HALVES: J H H (Bath), C D Morris (Oxford). PROP: J Leonard (Harlequins), G S Preece (Northampton), J A Pugh (Wasps), P A G Randall (Wasps). Hookers: D G Moore (Harlequins), C J Owe (Northampton). LOCKS: P J Ackford (Harlequins), S Dear (Rugby Park), W A Doolley (Preston Grasshoppers), M G Redman (Bath). FLANKERS: J P Hall (Bath), G W Preece (Northampton), M G Skinner (Forster), P J Wintchcombe (Harlequins). No. 8s: D Williams (Leicester), M C Treagus (Gloucester).

bruised ribs and his full participation in squad training.

Damian Hopley, the Wasps centre, would almost certainly be going but for the fact that he is likely to require an arthroscopy on a damaged knee cartilage. Philip de Glanville retains his place in the squad, therefore, as does David Pears at stand-off half, despite being overlooked by both his club and division at various stages this season.

Perhaps the unluckiest player is Rupert Moon, who had an excellent divisional championship but has just failed to unseat Dewi Morris as second choice scrum half behind Richard Hill. However the championship has given Dear, the Roselyn Park lock, the chance of a place in the squad.

Gary Pearce, England's most capped prop, returns to the squad at 34, for the simple reason that the selectors, heedless of age, do not see anyone better.

In the back row, where there is a wealth of talent, Gary Rees has nudged ahead of Andy Robinson and Neil Back, while Mike Teague goes as a No. 8 ahead of the unlucky Dean Ryan. The back row permutations will be tested in the Canaries when England's team to play Wales on January 19 will become apparent and the B XV to play Spain on January 20 will also be announced.

During a three-and-a-half-hour meeting the England captaincy, over which there has been so much unjustified media speculation, was not a subject of debate. "Will Carling is captain of England," Rutherford said.

Promotional scheme, page 34

Hoddle comes home to stay

By LOUISE TAYLOR

GLENN Hoddle, the former England and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, has been released from the final six months of his contract at Monaco, the French first division club, after failing to recover from a knee injury.

Dennis Roach, Hoddle's agent, and officials at Monaco yesterday confirmed that the club had terminated his contract and that the player had returned to England with his family.

Hoddle, aged 32, has been receiving treatment at Chelsea this week, but his left knee, on which he has had a series of operations - the latest in London two months ago - is not strong enough to enable him to train.

Hoddle, who has sold his former home in Essex and is now living in Berkshire, hopes to play again, and is expected to defer a decision on his future until next summer.

If he recovers, Chelsea

would be favourites to sign him. Otherwise, Hoddle nurtures ambitions to enter coaching or management, and Bobby Campbell, the Chelsea manager, has indicated his willingness to provide him with a job at Stamford Bridge.

After earning 53 caps during a sometimes glorious but often erratic career with England, Hoddle left Tottenham, where he won FA Cup and UEFA Cup medals, for Monaco in the summer of 1987.

Along with his fellow-Englishman, Mark Hateley, who is now with Rangers, Hoddle subsequently proved a huge success in France where his passing skills were fully appreciated and Monaco won the League. However injury has kept him out of the Monaco first team for the past 12 months.

● Celtic yesterday appointed Terry Cassidy, a former Nottingham Forest player, as the club's first chief executive.

Cassidy, aged 53, whose playing career was curtailed by injury, was previously managing director of George Outram, publishers of the Glasgow Herald and Evening Times.

Cassidy said he had no preconceived attitudes and that he would be "aiming to talk with everyone at the club, to get their views".

FA is determined to bid for the 1998 World Cup finals

By CLIVE WHITE

THE Football Association, with the support of the Football League, is to proceed with its bid to stage the 1998 World Cup finals and, if unsuccessful, the 1996 European championship.

There had been rumblings of discontent from the League at the £4 million of television money which the FA propose to divert towards the refurbishment of the selected venues, but the two sides appeared yesterday to be putting on a united front after a two-hour meeting at Lancaster Gate.

Reports that the FA had already decided on which grounds they would use and how many was described as a "misunderstanding" by Glenn Kirton, the head of the FA's external affairs. Every club in the first and second division were being invited to put its ground forward as a possible venue.

The FA will encourage those clubs interested to investigate the possibility of support from the private sector and local authority, while the FA will seek the assistance of the government. "The clubs are going to have to find money elsewhere," Kirton said.

Bill Fox, the League president, warned that there was no

chance, though, of government aid while football's authorities were fragmented.

"At this stage, we have an open mind as far as potential venues are concerned," Kirton said. "I think we need between eight and 12, but we'd be delighted if we get 20 meaningful applications, then we would have a competitive situation."

Kirton indicated that Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, had shifted his stance slightly on the question of bidding for the World Cup, which he was initially against. He described his mood at the meeting as "positive". Kirton added: "He thinks that it is right that we should put in a meaningful application and not just go through the motions."

The nine clubs which the FA had admitted lent themselves most easily to conversion, providing the capacity of 30,000 to 40,000 necessary under the criteria of Fifa, the game's governing body, were situated predominantly in the north, six of them from Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool. In the Midlands, only Villa Park was thought suitable, while in the south, just Highbury and Stamford Bridge, even though the latter's future is open to question.

An obvious and glaring omission was that of White Hart Lane, Twickenham, with the permission of the Rugby Football Union, was also alleged to be under consideration. It is estimated that the cost of bringing all the League's grounds up to the standard recommended by the Taylor Report, will cost about £675 million.

The FA, who will face competition to stage the World Cup finals from France, Switzerland and Morocco, and possibly others, must confirm to Fifa by April their intention to proceed with their bid. By September of that year, the FA would have to make a full presentation naming the venues which it has chosen. Fifa would then make their final choice in May or June of 1992.

● Chelsea expect around 6,000 supporters at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day to watch the satellite pictures of their first division match at Leeds United, 200 miles away. The London club have also arranged to screen their away match at Luton on December 29 to save their fans from "a cheerless Christmas".

Chelsea said after they were given only 1,300 tickets for the game, which also has a noon kick-off.

Second thoughts on women's ban

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) yesterday agreed to reconsider its demand that four women officials resign from its executive.

A 12-year-old regulation, which has never been published in the sport's rulebook, was invoked by the ABA after Carmel Carney, then the treasurer of the southeast division, applied to become assistant secretary of the ABA. She did not get it and lost her southeast post. Three others - Linda Shaw, Ann May, and Linda Safford - were also forced from executive positions with Surrey, Kent, and Southern Counties respectively.

The Sports Council, which gives the ABA an annual grant of £150,000, was so concerned that it demanded a meeting with ABA officials in London yesterday.

Under ABA rules, the women can be reinstated only at a national committee meeting, and the association agreed to convene one on the first

available Saturday in January. A spokesman for the Sports Council said it expected the women to be restored to their former positions.

"At the meeting, we expressed our concern that they were imposing discriminatory practices, and we urged them to reconsider these practices."

It is understood that the Sports Council threatened to withdraw the ABA's grant if it did not have a change of heart. Carney said: "This seems like good news. The sport would really be in trouble if it lost the grant, but we will wait and see what happens in January."

"I only hope that the ABA do not produce some new regulation out of the hat like a conjuror. If we are reinstated I hope they do not attempt to make our lives unbearable. I hope this will not be the case, because when they forced us to resign it was in the interests of their egos rather than the good of the sport."

Manchester has a springboard start on London

By DAVID MILLER

COMMENT

THE ground rules adopted yesterday by the British Olympic Association (BOA) for any city wishing to bid for the Olympic Games of 2000 will place the London committee under extreme pressure if it is to be ready in time for the BOA's selection deadline of mid-April next year.

Manchester, with the springboard of its unavailing campaign for 1996, will be better placed to meet the standard specifications on strategy, finance, political support, facilities and, perhaps most critical of all, planning, as outlined yesterday. It will be difficult in the four months available for the London committee, at present led by Sebastian Coe, to have guaranteed commitment and outline planning approval for the facilities, which the BOA believes must be under way by the time the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gives its vote in 1993, for the bid to have a chance.

While Manchester, enthusiastic to bid again, is in line with the

Greater Manchester Council - the authority whose signature would underwrite the Olympic Games, if awarded - London will be hard pressed to establish by April under which authority a bid would be entered: the City of London, represented by the Lord Mayor, or an amalgam from the Association of Metropolitan Boroughs? Who would sign the contracts for the games, according to the Olympic charter, effectively saying, "I will pay for the games", as Graham Stringer, leader of the council would have done for Manchester?

As yet, the present London bid has proceeded little further than the feasibility study commissioned in 1978-9 by the Greater London Council under the leadership of Horace Cutler.

Bob Scott, Manchester's chairman, is the first to recognise that a

properly structured bid from London could be a powerful candidate to put in the ring against Paris, Berlin and the rest. His reaction to the BOA's cautious decision was forthright.

"I'm pleased they have decided to proceed and have recognised that to get the games you have to bid," Scott said last night. "What I believe the BOA should now do is consult the government and enquire where the government would prefer the games to be held. I respect the BOA's independence, yet the government, whose backing is essential for any successful bid, must have a preference and should be invited to comment. Now it should not be left to the elected city then to negotiate with the government."

In one sense, yesterday's meeting was historic: for the first time the BOA was acknowledging its own responsibility in bringing an Olympic Games to Britain, rather than simply choosing teams to go to the

games or a city to make a bid. There were clear voices to be heard, outweighing the pessimists and stressing the need to continue: those of the Princess Royal, the president; of Craig Reddie, the international badminton official who is increasingly recognised within the General Assembly of International Sports Federation as presenting a coherent British view; Neil Townsend, from the Luge Federation; Robert Watson, the treasurer; and Lord Luke, honorary IOC member.

From this body of opinion came the view that remaining in the ring was important and that winning was not the only objective. The act of bidding demonstrates that British sport is active and positive. The criticism, evident in the press in recent days and echoed at yesterday's meeting, that the £3 million spent during Manchester's campaign for sport overlooks that the money

raised for the project would not have existed but for the project.

It would not have been there to be spent instead on cricket bats; and undoubtedly it helped over a four-year period to bring international events to the northwest. There was a spin-off for active sport.

The motives and emotions of Coe are well directed but he has maybe yet to discover that besides the mountain of committee work in structuring a London bid there follows a marathon trek in the field which requires a diplomacy that was quite beyond the Greeks during 1986-1990.

The BOA is to have an evaluation commission, though its findings might not necessarily be heeded. However, it is comforting that the BOA is taking the matter seriously.

Photograph and report, page 35



There are easier ways to stimulate your appetite before lunch!



Nolly Prat is Paparitz's delight!

Before lunch, before dinner - the delicious, dry, rounded taste of Nolly Prat cleanses the palate and stimulates the appetite like no other aperitif.

Fine wines matured in oak for 3 years in the sun-drenched south of France, enriched with a secret blend of more than 40 herbs, produce the unique taste.

Experience Nolly Prat today - simply chilled or with ice. And remember when you order, the name does it for you.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.

كندا من الأصل